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making LIFE easier...

WHAT HAPPENED TO WALES? BACK PAGE COMMENT BY DON JOHN. See page 40

CHARITIES' CHIEF HITS BACK AT ASSEMBLY CANDIDATE'S CRITICISM AS...

Cancer Research UK professor opens Cowbridge charity shop

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE new Cancer Research UK (CRUK) charity shop opened yesterday in Cowbridge, as a charities' spokesman defended it from criticism by an Assembly candidate in last week's GEM

Last week, Ross England, who is contesting the Vale of Glamorgan Assembly seat for the Welsh Conservatives, voiced his concern that charities such as Cancer Research UK were "crowding out" local independent shops.

Referring to "industrial scale charity chains" (Cancer Research UK now has 588 shops) he said they had a massive advantage because of rate relief and through not having to pay staff.

Now, The Charity Retail Association (CRA) – the only organisation representing charity shops in the UK – has hit back.

CRA chief executive, Robin Osterley said: "It is important to remember that charity shops are not direct competitors to commercial interests, but their partners on the high streets.

"Charity shops contribute to footfall and help to keep vacancy rates low. The donated stock that they sell is not available to other retailers."

He continued: "Charity shops are granted mandatory rate relief of 80 per cent, in recognition of the fact that they serve the clear charitable function of raising money for charitable causes.

"Only one in seven stores receives the additional 20 per cent discretionary allowance given by local councils, so the vast majority of shops are paying some rates.

"The cost of mandatory relief in Wales for this year will be about £4m, or just four per cent of the Welsh Government's £98m Small Business Rates Relief Scheme.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

All smiles as Professor Duncan Baird cuts the ribbon to open the new shop. On his left is the shop manager, Sam Griffiths.
(Photograph courtesy of Cancer Research UK.)

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• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL **address** and a contact **telephone number**.

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'MP did not set up a mobile bank'

I REFER to the claim made in The GEM last week by Alun Cairns MP, that he arranged for a mobile banking vehicle to come to Llantwit Major, to substitute for the loss of the NatWest Bank.

No, Mr Cairns, you cannot claim that you set this up for customers at Llantwit Major, as it was part of the plan drawn up by NatWest to support customers when the bank closed.

You were given this information, just like everyone else who met with NatWest to discuss the closure.

Jane Hutt AM and I met with the NatWest regional manager when it was first announced that the bank was closing, and he told us of the plans that he was offering to customers.

One was the arrangement to use the post office at Llantwit Major, and then for a mobile banking service to visit Llantwit Major one morning a week, plus all the other nearby villages.

He did, however, tell us that the mobile bank service would not be available until early in 2016, and he was expecting this arrangement to start in March.

This service may suit some residents, but the majority have now gone elsewhere for their banking and feel totally let down by NatWest.

Coun Gwyn John, Llantwit Major.

Charity shops issue

LIKE many Cowbridge residents, I am concerned to see the number of empty shops in our splendid town and alarmed at the thought of any more charity shops.

I was interested, therefore, to read your front page article last week drawing attention to Ross England's letter suggesting ways in which the number of charity shops might be limited.

I feel sure our hard-working AM will have her own views on the subject and I look forward to this being debated in the Senedd, and to reading the views of others through the columns of The GEM.

Len Taylor.

Stand welcomed

GOOD on Ross England for his commitment to protect our high streets. His comments will no doubt attract criticism from some, but I for one am glad to see a politician who's prepared to stand up for our area and help small businesses survive and thrive.

Stephanie Wills, Peterston Super Ely.

Post Office plan forgets disabled

WITH reference to the proposed closure of the Post Office in Holton Road, Barry, I know this will cause a great deal of inconvenience and problems for the many who use it.

I speak from the point of view of being wheelchair-bound and the many other disabled people who use this Post Office – it is entirely disabled-friendly.

Maybe the Post Office could point out where we can find another such facility in the vicinity? When the idea to close this Post Office was discussed, did anyone actually think about the people who use it? I doubt it.

Gill Hands, Barry.

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Change won't help small traders

'LET'S KEEP OUR SUNDAY SPECIAL'

LOCAL shopworkers are very concerned about UK Government plans to devolve Sunday trading hours to councils, and the effects that will have on family life, local shops, and the community.

The change could lead to large shops opening for longer, even though they are already trading for up to 150 out of 168 hours a week, so shopworkers will have even less time to spend with their families.

It won't help small stores, who are already allowed to open whenever they like, and may put some of them out of business. This is a solution looking for a problem that doesn't exist.

It isn't even clear who is actually calling for this change, with many retailers opposing it.

The Sunday Trading Act is a great British compromise, which has worked well for over 20 years and gives everyone a little bit of what they want.

Retailers can trade, customers can shop, staff can work; whilst Sunday remains a special day, different to other days, and shopworkers can spend some time with their family.

We encourage your readers to let their MP know what they think, so their vote in Parliament reflects local views.

John Hannett,
General Secretary,
Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW).

FOOTNOTE: What do our GEM readers think? Should Sunday be kept as a special family day?

Barry town is a match for anyone!

LAST Saturday's live televised Welsh Cup match from Jenner Park between Barry Town and TNS was an event that many fans never thought they would see again, after all of the difficulties faced in the past decade.

A crowd of 1,500 people were there, including many new, young fans attending their first ever game and players and supporters from other local clubs, like Cadoxton Barry, Sully Sports and Barry Albion, amongst many others.

The new 3G surface at Jenner Park meant that the match took place when so many other games were postponed because of the awful weather.

A special thanks has to go to Gavin and Hannah Chesterfield for all of their hard work over many years and to all of the fans, old and new, who who help out in whatever way they can.

Barry is a town that is on the up, so let's make special events like Saturday into the ordinary – and live up to our reputation as 'Wales' largest town' in everything that we do!

Coun Ian Johnson, Barry,
Plaid Cymru – the Party of Wales.

Lesson of the union levy...

UNTIL 1911, MPs were not remunerated and, as a result, Parliament was inhabited by the rich and privileged and those with private incomes.

The fledgling Labour Party in those times organised a levy on union members to support their MPs – that is, until the House of Lords decided to ban the practice.

This was too much for men of conscience and, in 1911, David Lloyd George introduced a payment of £400 per annum.

I was reminded of this on hearing the news that Andrew RT Davies AM had declared that he would cut the pay of ministers in the Welsh Assembly if the Tories gain power in the elections next May.

Conservatives always know the cost of everything and the value of nothing.

If they gained power, how long would it be before they cut the pay of ordinary AMs, to make it more difficult for aspiring members of other parties, without private incomes, to seek to serve as an Assembly member?

I shall be voting for UKIP.

David Thomas, Brynna.

How NOT to free a traffic bottleneck!

I HAVE commuted from Barry for almost 20 years and each year my journey takes longer and longer, the longest part being the bit from Barry to Culverhouse Cross.

The main bottleneck is the roundabout where the link road joins Port Road. So what do our council planners do?

They put in cycle paths that no-one will use and top it off with a bus lane at the main pinch point that has squeezed the roads leading up to the roundabout both ways into single lanes.

My bet is the benefit the buses gain will be offset by the longer queues that they too will sit in leading up to it. It will also have an impact on the school buses that turn right at this roundabout – who are now in the same single queue for all the cars going left to Cardiff.

While the above is a commuter 'whinge', a more serious question is, who is deciding that our taxes are best spent on these paths and bus lanes?

I understand there may be specific funding streams for different Government or local council initiatives, but really! In these times of austerity, I would prefer to see my hard-earned taxes being spent on health or education, rather than a bus lane and cycle paths that hardly get used.

I would love to know how many millions have been spent, for what tangible benefits, and what dis-benefits to commuters?

Sara Moggridge, Barry.

Bedroom tax and the 'nasty party'

ON the off-chance that there are still some pockets of UK civilisation that have difficulty in understanding why the Tories should be labelled 'The Nasty Party', I would suggest a few moments' consideration regarding the happenings recently, when judges in the Court of Appeal ruled the 'bedroom tax' policy discriminated against victims of domestic violence and disability, may be of assistance in giving some enlightenment to doubters.

The immediate reaction from the Government of the fifth greatest country (economically) in the world, was to subject the beneficiaries of this ruling to even more misery and hardship by appealing!

Those of us with slightly better than average memories, will recall that this policy was inspired by Ian Duncan Smith, the man who claimed it was easy to get by on weekly benefits.

Colin M James, Barry.

Brexit cash for camp?

MR CAMERON will never get (and so has not tried) an assurance that the French will keep the 'jungle camp' open if we stay in.

They could shut it anyway, and plenty want to. It would be better to make it worth their while to keep it, by giving them money from our saved EU subscription, rather than rely on their tenuous goodwill,

R Bradshaw, Cowbridge.

'Grave vandals, no sense of decency?'

AFTER reading an article in The GEM on February 4, regarding a damaged grave, I want to let people know that this is happening regularly.

My wife and I visited our son's grave three weeks ago and found that it had been interfered with. His windmills were stolen, and some of his ornaments were found lying around and not where we put them.

This type of incident has happened once before at our son's grave. My wife just broke down in tears. I sincerely hope the police find the culprits before I do.

My son was ONE DAY old when he died. Have they no sense of compassion or decency?

(Name and address supplied).

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 18)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
11 Thur	08.19	10.5	20.39	10.4
12 Fri	08.55	10.4	21.21	10.1
13 Sat	09.47	10.2	22.04	9.7
14 Sun	10.31	9.6	22.53	9.1
15 Mon	11.22	9.0	23.47	8.5
16 Tues			12.25	8.4
17 Wed	00.59	8.1	13.46	8.0
18 Thur	02.16	7.9	15.09	8.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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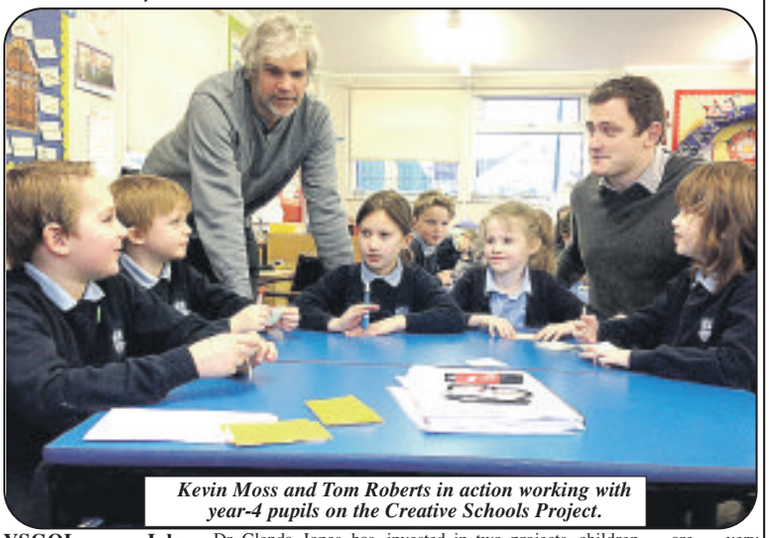
YSGOL IOLO MORGANWG'S £10,000 'CREATIVE' GRANT



Kevin Moss and Tom Roberts in action working with year-4 pupils on the Creative Schools Project.

YSGOL Iolo Morganwg is the only Welsh language primary school in the Vale area to be awarded a £10,000 Lead Creative Schools grant.

As one of the first group of schools in Wales to begin the initiative, the grant will be used for a practical and creative arts project to help develop numeracy and literacy within the school.

Dr Glenda Jones has been appointed the 'creative agent' for the school on behalf of the Arts Council and Kevin Moss, creative director of the digital story telling company 'Tell', who recently launched a mobile app about Agatha Christie, has taken the role of 'Creative Practitioner'.

Miss Alex Avoth, Ysgol Iolo's creative co-ordinator, will lead the project, assisted by Mr Tom Roberts.

Miss Avoth explained: "The money will be invested in two projects over the next two years. This year with the juniors and in 2017 with the foundation children.

"It's very exciting to be part of the first group of schools awarded the grant and at the moment we have a huge number of ideas. We look forward to working with Dr Glenda Jones and Kevin Moss and to create something very special".

This year's project will be with year-4 children, their form teacher Mr Tom Roberts commented: "The children are very enthusiastic about taking on the project and we are planning on making a digital resource to support numeracy teaching in an innovative way and with Kevin Moss's expertise, the ideas are plentiful with websites, apps, games or computer programmes."

Mrs Rhian Williams, headteacher, commented: "Ysgol Iolo is privileged to be awarded this amazing grant. 'The Creative Learning through the Arts Plan' sets out for arts, creative and cultural professionals to work in partnership with teachers and schools."

The plan is based on Professor Dai Smith's education report highlighting the importance of creativity in the development of children, where he says: *"In the 21st century, schooling will increasingly become the basis of a creative society, of a creative economy and a creative culture.*

"Numeracy and literacy are the staples of primary education and to be given the opportunity to explore ways to develop our teaching and then embed those benefits into our everyday teaching practice which will generate a sustainable impact is certainly a special gift for our children at Ysgol Iolo".

Cancer Research charity shop is now open in Cowbridge

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Mr Osterley continued: "In return, charity shops raise around £14m a year for good causes in Wales, including running local hospitals, to alleviating poverty to funding pioneering medical research. These costs might otherwise fall on the Welsh government and so the current scheme offers excellent value for money."

He added: "72 per cent of people in Wales think that charity shops are good value for money.

"A thriving charity retail sector helps to boost recycling, train volunteers, raise funds and promote footfall on the high street.

"The Welsh Government investigated changing the system of business rates relief as recently as 2013 and concluded that changes to the current system would jeopardise this great work for the Welsh economy, environment and society."

FUNDS RAISED FOR RESEARCH

At yesterday's shop opening, however, there was little talk of the impact that charity shops have on the high street.

Retail operations manager Tim Finch said that it was the 50th new shop they had opened under the Cancer Research UK banner. (many of the 586 shops were inherited when various cancer charities merged to form CRUK).

Cutting the ribbon was Prof Duncan Baird, a geneticist working on telomere biology, who is based at Cardiff University School of Medicine.

Prof Baird is a prime example of where CRUK money is spent in Wales. He is working on chromosomes to find ways of stopping them "unravelling" – something that doesn't happen in healthy cells, but which is a feature of cancerous cells.

In the same way that the 'cap' on a shoelace keeps the lace together, a genetic 'cap' holds the chromosome, and research into how these caps go wrong has already resulted in clinical applications.

He has been working in the field for 25 years, and for the last 10 has been funded by CRUK.

Also at the shop launch was Sian Whelan, the Senior Research Nurse for Wales. For the last 12 years, she has been dealing with patients who are suitable for clinical trials of various cancer treatments – again with the support of CRUK.

A spokeswoman said: "The new shop has bright lighting and colourful lampshades which give it an upmarket look.

"It also has an 'inspirational stories' panel where supporters can write about their own experience or leave comments."

The shop also has a community board with health information leaflets. Hanging tickets detailing the charity's science and stories are also dotted through the clothing rails. This is part of the charity's mission to inspire, engage and inform shoppers.

Shop manager Sam Griffiths, said: "We're asking people to help stock our new shop by clearing out their wardrobes and cupboards over the next few months and bringing us their good-quality clothes, shoes, bags, household items, books and CDs or DVDs.

"We always welcome new volunteers to help out in a number of different roles either on the shop floor or in our stock room, and the hours are flexible."

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School show was absolute triumph!

The Baker (Kyle John) with his wife (Charlotte Adams).

Photos by **MANDY THOMAS**
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Olivia Chester (Jack's Mother) and Patrick Sheppard (Jack).

Robyn Edwards, Hannah Clarke and Cerys Baker.

Charlotte Adams (Baker's Wife) and Cerys Baker (Cinderella).

Review by PHILIP IRWIN

THERE are quite a few reasons why schools shy away from Stephen Sondheim's musical classic, *Into The Woods*, which was performed last week by Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

First and foremost is the depth of talent you need on stage. By my reckoning, you need nine good solo voices, plus a strong chorus.

That's a start, but it is not enough, because those nine singers need stagecraft, must act out their songs, and must be razor sharp in their dialogue.

On top of that, some of the song lyrics are absolute tongue twisters. Here's one that Seren Hamilton, playing the Witch, has to say (at speed): "It's your father's fault that the curse got placed and the place got cursed in the first place."

Try that at home – and there are plenty more like it!

So, Cowbridge deserve praise simply for attempting the show but, on the evidence of last Thursday's performance, you can take that praise and multiply it by a factor of 10, at least.

This was no brave effort. There was so much good work onstage that the show really worked. The audience laughed when they were supposed to, and I found the emotional scenes really powerful.

On top of that, when the cast were working together on stage, there was a real sense of joy as they sensed how well they were doing.

Into The Woods is full of familiar fairy tale characters. The only 'ordinary' couple are a baker and his wife, and in the first half all the characters pursue what they believe will make them 'happy ever after'.

In part two, the consequences of their actions come back to haunt them, and they must deal with a new set of problems. There's a massive shift from comedy to tragedy.

Looking at the young actors, it is traditional to start with the Witch. After all, when they filmed the show a few years back, it was Meryl Streep who was cast in the role.

Big shoes to step into, and on stage you need someone with a big voice too, and Seren Hamilton was more than equal to the demands.

Early in the show she is an old crone, and she plays that side of the witch very well. Later, when she has broken the spell she is under and returns to her former beauty, she is a forceful and determined, and sings her big numbers really well.

Cinderella is an important role, and was beautifully sung by Cerys Baker. More importantly, she was totally at home with the acting side.

In this show, Cinderella is never totally sold on the fairy tale myth, and Cerys puts across that blend of delight and suspicion really well.

The show has some great female roles and the Baker's Wife, played by Charlotte Adams is another. Her relationship with her husband changes as the show progresses and she is allowed to be a complex character.

Her biggest number – 'Moments in the Woods' – comes after she has had an unexpected dalliance with Cinderella's Prince, and she sang this difficult song really well.

Another strong female character is Red Riding Hood. Anna Hooper was perfectly cast in this role and her song, 'I Know Things Now' is a prime example of a Sondheim song that has to be acted as well as sung.

Anna drew on her wide range of expressions to really bring this character to life.

Elinor Parsons plays Rapunzel and she proved to be a real team player. She has sung as a soloist with the Cowbridge Male Voice Choir, but here she has to be content with one song – a duet with the Witch.

Rapunzel's tale is a mix of comedy and tragedy, and Elinor threw herself into the comedy aspect of the role, making the most of her dialogue scenes.

On the male side, the key role is the Baker, played by Kyle John. He is the moral heart of the show, and fate deals him the biggest collection of blows.

He's broken but finds the strength to go on, and he handles the emotional demands of the piece adroitly. His contribution to the final numbers, 'No More' and 'No one is Alone' had me wiping a tear or two away.

The two handsome princes don't go through any real emotional torment. The characters are both too full of themselves for that, and it gives Tom Hamilton and Tom Davis a chance to ham it up!

Tom Hamilton (Cinderella's prince) channels Rik Mayall's Lord Flashheart from Blackadder – all bravado and supreme self confidence.

Tom Davis (Rapunzel's prince) plays the character as a toff, with a bit of Harry Enfield's Tim-nice-but-dim thrown in. He also played the Wolf who encounters Red Riding Hood.

The audience loved their two songs, one in each half, entitled 'Agony' and they grabbed the roles and milked them until they were bone dry.

Patrick Sheppard plays Jack, and he was another example of almost perfect casting , getting plenty of laughs when Jack was young and dopey, and then later showing that he was starting to grow up as he coped with the world.

However, this show is a team effort and there were key contributions from so many other young people on stage, including Buzz Schofield, Aisling McCormack Thomas, Ioan Wardhaugh, Henny Glanville, Robyn Edwards, Olivia Chester, Hannah Clarke, and Amy Hooper.

I liked the way that the puppeteers put aside their puppets to join the ensemble routines, and I was close enough to the stage to hear that several of them had strong voices too.

You need a great orchestra for this show, and all were either staff or pupils at the school, which says a lot for the musical quality of Cowbridge Comp.

Adrian Colborne is a fan of Sondheim and it shows. As musical director, he has to keep the complex score in time with the action on stage, and it all went absolutely smoothly.

Finally, Amanda Campbell as director should be praised for having the ambition to do this show, for having the confidence in her pupils, and for her ability to convince them they could do it. I suspect some may have had misgivings, but she was proved right in the end!

Quite a few of these young performers will be around next year, so I for one will be looking forward to it.

All photos taken in rehearsal by Mandy Thomas for sale at: (mandythomasphotography.com)

Seren Hamilton (the Witch) and Elinor Parsons (Rapunzel).

Darren Farm: 'Town Council was ignored'

LOCAL residents and businesses will be aware that the Town Council has vigorously opposed the proposed Darren Farm development.

The council has submitted extensive representations to the Vale planners, both against the original planning application for 390 homes and the subsequent amended development plan, extending the number of houses to 475.

Recently council members were present at the Vale Planning Committee site meeting and spoke against the Vale officer's 100-page report and recommendations at the January 14 planning committee meeting.

Unfortunately, the views of the council and many other local people have been totally ignored. The many serious negative effects that threaten our community still remain.

Over the coming months, the council will continue to voice its opposition through the forthcoming detailed applications for the development of the residential component of the site as they occur.

Mr David B Morris, Town Clerk
(on behalf of the Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council).

The migrants issue and Darren Farm

ROGER BRADSHAW (GEM Letters, last week) is to be congratulated for linking Darren Farm with migration from the EU.

One of the reasons the EU came into being was to ensure that democracy prevailed against tyranny.

The EU has no voice in planning decisions, but if it did, we could be fairly sure that it would take a dim view of the Vale's high-handed decision to remove the controversial Darren Farm development from the purview of the democratic process of the LDP – a positively Soviet example of using ends to justify means.

As for EU migration, many people do not realise that there are roughly as many Britons living and working in the EU as there are citizens from other EU countries working here.

If we throw up our shutters, how much damage will we do to the future work and study chances of young Britons in international companies, as well as to those looking forward to a retirement in the sun?

Moreover, our growing economy needs more workers, with unemployment at its lowest level since 1975. EU migrants have jobs and contribute substantially to the British economy.

And why should refugees established in Germany decide to up sticks and come to Britain when Germany has better living standards, benefits etc, than we do?

The idea that we can simply leave the EU and close our borders is a false one: that would wreck the economy, collapse the NHS, push up our borrowing costs and leave us without any locus in the management of the Continent of which we are part.

If EU migrants came in proportion to Cowbridge, we should receive about 12 extra people each year. Darren Farm will bring 1,200. Hardly a tea party!

Peter Sain ley Berry, Cowbridge.

Bereaved gran wins Crackerjack lottery

A GRANDMOTHER from Barry, whose grandson became Britain's youngest ever organ donor, has won the top prize in a charity lottery.

Debra Carr, who is a long-time supporter of Tŷ Hafan, the hospice for children in Wales, was delighted to learn that she had won the charity's Crackerjackpot lottery weekly top prize of £2,000.

Debra has two very personal reasons for supporting Tŷ Hafan. Her brother died when they were both teenagers, and at that time there was nothing like Tŷ Hafan available for families. This experience gave Debra a genuine understanding of the need for a children's hospice and she wanted to help as much as possible.

Sadly, Debra's connection with the hospice became more personal when her grandson Teddy died last year. Debra's daughter Jess and her partner made headlines when Teddy became Britain's youngest ever organ donor.

Teddy's parents learned that his life would be very short while Jess was pregnant, and were determined that his life would not be in vain. His kidneys were donated to an adult recipient, providing a lasting legacy for Teddy.

Debra and Jess with the prize cheque.

Jess said: "A room was waiting for us at Tŷ Hafan, which we didn't use in the end, as the organ donation was able to go ahead, but Tŷ Hafan has been very supportive to us. Teddy also has his own special stone in Tŷ Hafan's memorial garden."

A delighted Debra said: "I couldn't believe it! I play the lottery as a way to support Tŷ Hafan and never expected to win. It was a lovely surprise."

With 81 guaranteed weekly prizes, including a £2,000 top prize plus a rollover jackpot of up to £12,000, becoming a member of the Tŷ Hafan Crackerjackpot is an excellent way of supporting a charity which makes a huge difference to life-limited children, young people and their families from across Wales.

CADOC SURGERY

CADOC councillors Anne Moore, Fred Johnson and Neil Moore will be holding a surgery for Cadoc residents at the Palmerston Education Centre, Cadoc Crescent, on Thursday, February 25 between 6pm – 7pm. No appointment is necessary.

JAIL FOR MAN AFTER 'CHAT ROOM' STING

Report by **AJ SICLUNA**

A 55-YEAR-OLD man had to be helped to the cells in Cardiff Crown Court when he almost collapsed after being jailed for two years.

Malcolm Blount of Winchester Close, Barry, admitted seven charges involving attempting to incite a 12-year-old child to engage in sexual activity, possessing indecent photographs of children, and distributing similar photographs.

Judge Tom Crowther QC said: "This is all aggravated by the fact that it involves deliberate and persistent targeting.

"You, as an adult, thought of children as sexual objects. You should have realised the damage you could have done and the public will be horrified if you didn't receive an immediate custodial sentence."

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said that last June, an undercover police officer came in contact with Blount, who had signed up for "chat hour".

The officer indicated she was a 12-year-old child. Blount said he was 54, from the Cardiff area and indicated that she looked sexy.

The following day, he sent her a message asking her to contact him, day or night. He asked her if she would like to see his genitals and said he would teach her about sex.

He left her explicit, indecent messages and sent her a number of indecent images.

The police later found Blount had 94 indecent images and 52 were of the most serious category.

He was arrested on July 30 and essentially, said Mr Trigg, admitted the incitement offence and that he believed the girl was 12.

"He also said he liked talking to pre-teen girls about sex."

The indecent images were found on his phone and he admitted he had shared some of them with others.

His counsel, Ruth Smith, said: "His family speak of him in glowing terms, but sadly, he has to face serious issues. He tried to minimise the effect of the offences.

"He is desperate for help and is absolutely terrified of going to prison. He cannot explain how he fell into such a pattern of behaviour."

The Judge made a Sexual Harm Prevention Order.

Welder jailed

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

His counsel, Ruth Smith, said: "He accepts he has to receive a prison sentence. He pleaded guilty at an early stage and was full and frank with the police. It is unfortunate that at the time he was addicted to heroin.

"A relationship had split up and he resorted to using drugs which provided him with a bit of a crutch."

She said Carter realised he should not have assisted the other man.

Judge Tom Crowther QC told him: "It's perfectly clear that you drove him around while he sold heroin. He could not have operated without you, and the offence is so serious that only immediate custody can be justified."

WI has tour of Parliament

A LARGE number of members and visitors attended the February meeting of Rhoose WI, when Alun Cairns talked about the history and traditions of the Houses of Parliament.

Some members had met Mr Cairns the previous Friday when they toured the Houses of Parliament. Jill Jones said how much everyone had enjoyed this glimpse into the life of an MP.

Members were reminded that the annual meeting of the Glamorgan Federation will take place on May 10 at the Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot.

Dates for the Heritage Link meetings where Rhoose WI is the host are now confirmed: April 14, an evening event when 'Clocs Canton' will entertain (£3.50 to include a buffet) ; June 9, afternoon tea with a fashion show by John Lewis (£3). The carol service will take place at St Peter's Church, Rhoose, on December 5 at 7pm.

Joy Grant won the monthly competition and Jill Jones won the raffle. The next meeting will be the annual eisteddfod on March 3 at the Community Hall, Stewart Road, at 7.30pm, when members will compete for the Joan Pengilly Cup; entertainment will be provided by the members. Visitors welcome. **JJ**

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(Pancake) times past in Cowbridge!

ABOVE: Beverley Halley (nee Burgess) and Billy Barritt. Beverley now lives in Paris and works for L'Oreal. At this time she lived in Brookfield Park. Billy was from Welsh St Donats.

ABOVE: Sian believes that the girl (front left) with Bev and Billy is Ceri Rich, who now lives in San Francisco. Other people in the photo, including the man who may or may not be wearing a wig, have not, as yet, been identified.

HITTING THE HIGH NOTES!

CANON Derek Belcher enjoying the moment with some of the village school choir and the visiting Early Byrd Singers after morning service on Sunday at St Cadoc's Church, Llancarfan.

by PHILIP IRWIN

A COWBRIDGE resident wonders if these two pictures will jog any memories for people who were young back in the 1970s!

Sian Vaughan, who has supplied the pictures, went to Cowbridge High School for Girls, and recognises some contemporaries from that era, but is unsure if the photos were taken in 1974, 1975 or 1976.

It is a pancake race down the High Street (which might fall foul of Health and Safety these days) featuring school pupils.

Sian is hoping that someone might be able to date the photos more exactly, and perhaps recognise one or two faces!

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk

RNLI TEAM HOLDS AGM

BARRY Dock RNLI fundraising team will be holding their annual general meeting on March 1 at 7.30pm at the RNLI lifeboat station, Barry Island.

All are welcome to attend to hear more about the work of the group that raised nearly £30,000 in 2015 to support the lifesaving work of the charity. Please contact Margaret McMillan on 02920705234 or mcmillan42H@talktalk.net for more details.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tyneuydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Correction

A CORRECTION to my report last week, February 4 on the cancer awareness event that took place in Treoes village hall on January 30: it raised a little over £1,000, not £100.

Special thanks to Bridgend Fabrics and to The Red Fox Inn, Penllyne.

Views sought

LLANGAN Community Council would appreciate the views of residents of Llangan and Treoes regarding the increasing volume of traffic through the village.

My own point of view is that something must be done to discourage drivers from speeding down from the A48 and entering Treoes at the junction of the road leading from Llangan.

I am sure traffic lights placed on the south side of the entrance to the sometimes busy allotments would decrease the speed of stupid drivers. If any readers of my column have views on the parking/speeding, please write to LCC Clerk Jo Howell, 'Nanty Wern', Peterston-Super-Ely, CF5 6LG; 01446 761107.

Saron Chapel, Treoes

THE service which took place on Sunday, February 7 was attended by Treoes residents and several members of the Young At Heart Club.

It was also a pleasure to welcome Mrs Nina West who is now in her 96th year and was there to support her daughter Lorraine, who so eloquently introduced the hymns in the absence of an official cleric.

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PORTHCAWL'S FLAGSHIP CHARITY EVENTS HAND CASH WINDFALL TO LOCAL GROUPS

Photographs by
GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

A TOTAL of 26 local charities received donations from two of Porthcawl's biggest charity events last Friday (February 5) at a presentation evening in the Hi-Tide Inn.

Porthcawl Buckaneers, organisers of Porthcawl Carnival and Porthcawl Christmas Morning Swim, raised more than £12,000 over the two events, and that cash was shared out during the evening.

The Swim's main beneficiary was Porthcawl RNLI Lifeboat who were celebrating their 50th anniversary in the town.

John Abraham, the Porthcawl RNLI chairman, received a cheque of £3,000 on behalf of the lifeboat station.

The carnival main beneficiary was Ty Elis Counselling Service, which received £1,000.

Masters of ceremony for the evening Dave King MBE and Jeff Tombes, representing the Buckaneers, presented cheques to Porthcawl Sea Cadets, Porthcawl Mayor's Charity Fund, Porthcawl Parkinson's Support Group, Porthcawl Rock Club, Trinity Care Club, Porthcawl Kidney Research, Porthcawl Lifeguard Club, St. John Ambulance, Porthcawl Fire Service, Ty Elis Counselling, Cornelly and District Community Trust, Porthcawl RFC - Junior Section, The Samaritans (Bridgend branch), Porthcawl and Pyle Pumas Amateur Boxing Club, Porthcawl Museum and Historical Society, the Sandville Self-Help Centre, the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel, Porthcawl Town Athletic FC, Porthcawl Coastguard Unit, PAWs, Marie Curie, Coast Watch, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Latch Caravan for Kidz, Porthcawl Stroke Club and Porthcawl RNLI.

The retiring Christmas Morning Swim chairman, Nicola Willis, said: "Our guests, commit many hours for the benefit of our community and we were delighted to give them some financial help."

She thanked each committee for the hard work and support in putting on the two key events in Porthcawl's calendar.

There were two other retirements announced on the night, both from the Christmas swim committee.

Ian Stroud retired after long service as press officer for the swim, while his wife, Linda, also stood down as secretary.

Ian was presented with a caricature portrait, and Linda received a 'thank you' bouquet of flowers.

During the evening, guests were entertained by Porthcawl Ukulele Band who, as usual, provided excellent entertainment.

The date of this year's carnival was announced as July 23 and the theme will be 'Life on the Beach'. Organisers will arrange meetings at the Hi Tide Inn, Mackworth Road Porthcawl to seek and discuss entries as 'floats' and 'walkers' and for any group, organisations or individuals who would be prepared to help with the event.

PHILIP IRWIN

Kindermusik pupils in 'graduation' ceremony

AT an event on Friday (February 5) in Holy Cross, Cowbridge, pupils of Leonie Hain graduated from their Kindermusik Young Child class after two years of study.

"Each one was proud to present their new skills on their glockenspiel, recorder, dulcimer and singing at the end-of-term concert to their parents, and showed off their well-deserved certificates of achievement having completed the course," Leonie said.

Not a lot happening in the hives – *or is there?*

Fonmon Apiary bulletin by **Harold Williams**

NOT a lot happening just yet, well, not externally! However, because I have been examining the debris that falls into a tray beneath the floor of selected hives on a regular basis, I can observe (by the mites that are to be found in it) that although winter months should bring about a lessening of activity, much has been going on.

We have not experienced the low temperatures that are associated with winter and, as a consequence, life within the colony has been altered by the very mild conditions.

Honeybees do not hibernate! They cease activity when temperatures are lower than 9◦C, and as we have had and still are having temperatures up into the 'teens, external and internal activity has ever been present.

A normal winter state should see the colony form a cluster (ball) and very little movement or consumption of stores should take place.

The queen will cease to lay eggs and no brood should be in evidence; everything is on hold until spring appears.

What has my debris examination and counting of the varroa mites revealed? Well, the queens have continued to lay eggs that have developed into larvae and eventually into new bees.

This scenario has suited the varroa very well and they have been breeding along with the bees.

How do I know this? Let's delve into the life cycle of the varroa mite: when a queen lays an egg, in three days it will turn into a larva. This larva is cared for by nurse bees that will feed it and eventually seal it into the cell it occupies.

Within this sealed cell, metamorphosis takes place and a new bee will emerge. Chemical signals (pheromones) pass between bee and larva, so each is aware of every step coming along.

The varroa mite also picks up on these chemical signals (varroa are on the bodies of the nurse bees) and before the wax seal is effected, a mite will enter the cell and be sealed in with the developing larva. As the larva changes into a bee, the mite (this is an adult breeding female) proceeds to lay her eggs and produce young. (There is more going on but another article is needed to explain.)

My debris observations are showing me dead mites of varying colours, some very white, some dark brown, and some with a dash of both colours.

How is this coming about? In essence, as the bee is developing so are the young mites. The metamorphosis cycle has matured and a new bee is ready to emerge.

As my debris is revealing, not all of the young mites have reached maturity – hence the lack of colour in some of them. They are not the brown colour they should be, but as the bee has fully developed and chewed through the wax seal and emerged into the hive, those immature mites die off as do some of their mothers and the bees clean out the cells ready for further use.

The dead bodies and particles of wax, plus other debris, end up in the collecting drawer beneath the colony.

This should not be happening in winter. But it is.

HAROLD WILLIAMS.

Vale ploughing match dates remain changed

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society recently held its first meeting of the season in the Six Bells, Penmark.

The chairman, Andrew Studley, stated that the dates of the ploughing match this year needed to be changed, to avoid clashing with the World Ploughing Match in Yorkshire on September 8 – 11 and the All Wales Match on September 17.

The event will now be held on September 25 at Norton Hall Farm, on ground between Ogmore by Sea and Southerndown in the Vale of Glamorgan, by permission of Graham David.

The entrance to the ploughing match will be by Little West Farm House Restaurant and the society welcomes all who are interested in seeing how ploughing was done in years gone by. The programme for the match on September 25 will be set out in good time.

Treasurer Ray Morgan reported sound finances and reminded members that membership is due for the coming year, with many members taking the option of five years' membership for £40.

The chairman announced that John Watts, a long-time supporter of ploughing in Glamorgan and the rest of Wales, had become an honorary member of the society.

The chairman reported that the society is looking for sections of hedging suitable for laying, so that this craftsmanship is kept alive. He was also pleased that the Ferguson Club will be staging the Dragon Welsh Open Championship for Ferguson Tractors, sponsored by Ledley Engineering of Llandow.

This year is the 70th anniversary of the Ferguson Little Grey T.20 model made by Harry Ferguson at the Coventry factory, which changed the face of farming.

Basil George was thanked for his continued support, on behalf of the Ferguson Club, and it was noted that the standard of ploughing in the Ferguson Class improves year on year.

Further information can be obtained from the chairman on 07980 921990, the secretary on 07855 414759, or on 01656 654440.

Register your vote ASAP!

THE Vale Council wants to encourage anyone not yet registered to vote, to take advantage of National Voter Registration Drive and go online now to register.

On Thursday, May 5, voters across Wales will go to the polls for National Assembly for Wales and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

Anyone who isn't registered to vote won't be able to take part and have their say.

The deadline to register to vote in these elections is Monday, April 18. While there is still time, it is running out quickly. The good news is that it only takes a few minutes to register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote . It's a chance to join the thousands of people across the UK being encouraged to register.

Debbie Marles, returning officer for the Vale said: "Anyone not yet registered to vote should do so as soon as possible so they can have their say on issues that affect their day-to-day lives."

NEWS IN BRIEF

A LARGE group of Friends and Neighbours recently enjoyed a tour and visit to the Wales Senedd and and were greeted by Jane Hutt AM, who showed us World War Two memorabilia.

The Senedd was designed by Richard Rogers and built from Welsh materials. We were told the red curved cedar roof is meant to represent the waves in Cardiff Bay.

We were then invited to tea and Welsh cakes and Ms Hutt asked members if they wished to sign the petition against the closure of the general Post Office in Barry.

GAYE FIFIELD

Roadworks

Junction 34 Miskin interchange; A4055 Port Road, from junction with Culverhouse Cross to its junction with Nant Isaf, Wenvoe; A48 near Bridgend Ford, Bridgend.

Temporary traffic control:

B4265 Main Road, Ogmore by Sea near West Farm Road;

A4055 Harbour Road, Barry (the Causeway);

Paget Road, Barry Island, at its junction with Clive Road and Plymouth Road;

Penlan Road, Llandough;

St Brides Road, Wick (adjacent to the new development);

Trem Echni, Rhoose Point;

St Andrews Major village;

Llanmaes Road junction with Heol Ger Y Felin, Llantwit Major.

Road closure:

Clive Road, Barry Island, at the junciton with the access road to Barry Island overflow car park; Pen y Lan Village near Llansannor; Solent Road, Barry; Cynepyn Lane, Peterston Super Ely.

PACT meetings

COURT PACT at the Witchill Community Hall, Dyfan Road, Barry, on Thursday, February 18 at 6pm.

CADOC PACT at Waitrose, Palmerston Road ,Barry on Thursday, February 18 between 11am and 1pm.

ST ATHAN Police surgery at the Gathering Place, St Athan, on Sunday, February 14 between 3pm and 4pm.

RHOOSE coffee and chat at the Flying Club, Rhoose, on Tuesday, February 23 at 11am.

Jane Hutt AM with Mark Drakeford AM, Maria Battle, Prof Nick Topley and colleagues.

Pioneering training project presented at Barry Hospital

THE Vale AM Jane Hutt recently welcomed Minister for Health and Social Services Mark Drakeford AM, to Barry Hospital to discuss plans to develop a pioneering new training facility for medical students.

The plans were presented by Professors Nick Topley and John Bligh from Cardiff University's School of Medicine, and the Chair of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Maria Battle.

Ms Hutt explained: "As part of the innovative new medical education curriculum at Cardiff University (C21) they are working towards placing students in the community earlier and for longer.

"Focussing their training largely on community centred learning and meeting patients at the earliest opportunity in a clinical setting, the approach will cultivate exceptional doctors equipped with a heightened patient empathy and an excellent scientific understanding.

"Barry Hospital provides an ideal link between the primary and secondary care services so that students can learn about how to provide services closer to patients own homes."

John's a lucky-lucky winner at Llandough!

John and Janice Shapland at the Royal Voluntary Service Cafe bar at University Hospital, Llandough.

A LUCKY customer at the Royal Voluntary Service cafe bar at University Hospital, Llandough, was served up a bumper helping of cash when he won a grand prize raffle netting him a cool £10,000 windfall.

Mr John Shapland, from Peterston-Super-Ely, was attending University Hospital Llandough Hospital for a routine appointment and popped along to the cafe bar for a quick cuppa. While he was there he purchased a ticket for the Royal Voluntary Service raffle and thought no more of it.

John was over the moon when he was notified about the win after the draw took place in mid December.

John and his wife Janice revisited the cafe bar to be presented with the cheque by Kevin Thomas, individual giving officer for the Royal Voluntary Service.

Kevin said: "As you can imagine, John and Janice were both extremely happy to win the grand prize in our 2015 Christmas raffle. Almost 50,000 tickets were sold last year!

"The Royal Voluntary Service runs raffles and prize draws as part of their fundraising activities.

It provides an opportunity for people to make a small donation to the charity and at the same time to potentially win an exciting prize!

"Our raffle and prize draw programme raises over £1 million per year – money that goes to local services throughout the UK to support older people."

The Royal Voluntary Service supports over 100,000 older people each month to maintain independence in their own homes for longer, with tailor-made solutions.

Through its army of volunteers, the charity runs services such as Good Neighbours (companionship), Meals-on-Wheels and Books-on-Wheels that alleviate loneliness and help older people.

CONFUSION REIGNS AS UKIP COUNCILLOR LEAVES THE PARTY

LOCAL Vale councillor Kevin Mahoney quit UKIP this week – only for the party to claim it had sacked him.

Two weeks ago, Coun Mahoney had warned UKIP party chiefs that he opposed people being parachuted into Wales from other areas of the UK for the Welsh Assembly election which takes place in May.

Coun Mahoney had said that on a point of principle, he couldn't stay in the party if local activists were overlooked.

On Monday he told The GEM: "It is with great regret that I must honour the pledge that I gave on national television recently that, out of a sense of preserving my own personal integrity and honesty, I will not associate myself with those personalities described in the media, as candidates.

"They have been parachuted into Wales by the UKIP hierarchy in order to leapfrog local Welsh-based activists on the regional list for the May Assembly election."

But on Wednesday morning, February 11, when BBC interviewer Oliver Hides asked UKIP's Nathan Gill whether Coun Mahoney had been booted out of the party, he agreed.

Taster event for adults with a learning disability

ARE you an adult with a learning disability in the Vale? Have you finished college and are looking for things to do? Perhaps you are in receipt of direct payments and don't know how best to use them?

Well look no further! SEND is a day service that specialises in catering for adults with mild to moderate learning disabilities.

Students meet once or twice a week and continue their studies in English, maths, activity group work, film studies and boccia.

We only have 12 spaces available and they are filling up fast. For more information and to book your place contact Laura on: 07861 378311 or email laura@specialneedscardiff.co.uk.

Construction jobs boosted thanks to £120m infrastructure investment

LAST month, I was delighted to launch the CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) Construction Skills Network report on the site of the new £20m schools development in Llantwit Major – the Llantwit Learning Community – funded by the Welsh Government and the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

It was great to meet the student ambassadors from Llantwit Major Comprehensive, who are engaged with the contractors in all stages of the development of their new school and Ysgol y Draig. I also met apprentices, a quantity surveying student and a trainee site manager. These are key posts among the 75-80 per cent employees drawn from across south Wales, with 120 people on site at peak times.

The CITB is forecasting strong annual growth in the Welsh construction sector compared to other parts of the UK, amounting to 7.1 per cent growth in Wales; 2.5 per cent in the rest of the UK.

The report forecast that this growth will create 27,000 more jobs over the next five years and welcomed the strategic approach we have taken with the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan.

My announcement of a further £120m for infrastructure investment on Tuesday this week, will create up to 2,000 jobs in 2016/17 with a number of projects benefiting all parts of Wales including:

- £50m for transport projects;
- £10m for the 21st Century Schools programme, which includes post-16 capital investment;
- £10m for the Intermediate Care Fund, focusing on 'step-down' and 'reablement facilities' to support people leaving hospital;
- £10m for the Welsh Ambulance Trust for the replacement of ambulances;
- £5m for Green Growth Wales, providing repayable energy efficiency grants across the NHS, local government and education;
- £3m for Warm Homes/Arbed to tackle fuel poverty by investing in energy efficiency schemes;
- £10m for neonatal facilities;
- £20m for housing and regeneration, including the Town Centre Loan Fund.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by **Jane Hutt AM** (Minister for Finance)

This capital boost is in addition to the £43m for schools and social housing I announced last week, which will benefit the whole of Wales.

My announcements came as part of the Draft Budget for 2016/17 which was debated in the Senedd on Tuesday. I confirmed the £300m boost to the Welsh NHS, as well as £21m for social services and funding for mental health and health services for older people.

Schools funding got a boost as well and we confirmed our support for further education and apprenticeships.

I also announced an additional uplift for higher education funding via HEFCW (Higher Education Funding Council for Wales) helping part time HE students as well as world class scientific research.

This Budget has been set against the backdrop of a 3.6 per cent real terms cut by the UK Government over the next four years. Our Welsh Government budget will be 11 per cent lower by the end of the decade than it was in 2010.

The Journal for the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy said that my Budget represented 'A clear way forward despite austerity'.

Community Housing Cymru welcomed the extra money for social housing saying the 'Welsh Government has recognised that housing is integral to Wales' Infrastructure and we will continue to make the case for further investment in housing through the 'Homes for Wales' campaign.'

This Budget has been all about priorities, abiding by our principles as a Welsh Government that believes we can support growth and jobs with capital investment but also safeguard and enhance the public services that mean the most to the people of Wales – health, education and housing.

Newydd in line for top award

NEWYDD housing association has been shortlisted in the 'Outstanding Development Programme of the Year' category at the prestigious UK Housing Awards 2016.

Working with local authorities and the Welsh Government, Newydd provides affordable homes across the Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Powys. This year, 63 new homes were completed, 76 are currently under construction, and sites for more than 400 further homes are being secured for the next five years.

Recent schemes include 23 homes in St Athan and the redevelopment of a disused hotel on Barry Island into 20 apartments for local people who needed to downsize.

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Primary pupils get a taste of things to come

Making a rainbow.

COLCOT Primary School children were treated to a taste of things to come this week, thanks to a range of inspiring activities to introduce them children to topics they will be learning about next half-term.

These included: duck pond races, street graffiti art, bottled rainbows, homemade sherbet, junk model rocket ships and Arctic survival skills!

"The purpose of these immersion activities is to excite and enthuse the children about the topic they are to study and also to allow children time to plan and research areas of learning that they would like to investigate during the topic," a school spokesman said.

"The day proved a real success with both staff and children and the excitement levels within the school were clear to see!

"These activities proved so successful, the staff are already busy planning for the next immersion day. To see more of these activities you can visit colcotprimaryschool.com ."

Homemade sherbet.

CANDLELIT CONCERT

AT 4pm on Sunday, February 21 St Donat's Church will hold its annual Candlelit Concert. Musicians and singers from Atlantic College will present a varied programme to raise money for the Lullaby Trust and for church funds. The Trust supports those affected by sudden infant death syndrome.

Tickets available on the door or from Nickleby's Bookshop in Llantwit Major at £5, including refreshments.

Right, said Fred, here's how you do it!

The Mayor demonstrates his footballing skills to the Vale Referees Society.
Photo by John O Beirne

MAYOR of the Vale, Coun Fred Johnson, is patron to the Vale of Glamorgan Referees Society and as a keen football fan, was very interested to hear about its achievements recently. Afterwards, he agreed that there was "much more to refereeing than just blowing a whistle!"

The Vale society, sponsored by RIM Motors, meets on the second Monday of each month between August and May. For further information, contact the secretary, Terry Allday, on vogrs@hotmail.co.uk.

PENARTH TALK ON LOCAL SCULPTOR

THE work of local sculptor Frank Roper will be the subject of a talk to Friends of St Augustine's, Penarth, following their AGM on February 25, by Ilse Fisher. will be giving an illustrated talk on Frank Roper and bringing along with some examples of his smaller sculptures.

She knew Roper personally, lived next door to him during one of his most productive periods, and has made a study of his technique and approach.

Chair of the Friends, Tricia Griffiths, said: "You don't need to belong to the Friends of St Augustine's to come and hear this talk about a remarkable man who lived in Penarth for many years. Just come and enjoy the evening in the Parish Hall, Albert Road, Penarth, at 7pm.

Feature at St Augustine in St Augustine's Church, Penarth.

Children in Need offering grants

BBC Children in Need is to run a funding surgery for projects across the Vale of Glamorgan and those interested in applying for funding are being invited to attend.

It will be held at Barry Community Enterprise Centre on Thursday, March 3.

BBC Children in Need supports projects that work with disadvantaged children and young people aged 18 years and under in the UK.

The charity funds two types of grants, both of which are open to applicants. A small grants programme includes grants up to and including £10,000, which supports projects for one year. The main grants programme is for grants over £10,000 per year to support projects for up to three years.

Projects interested in funding are being asked to apply for a 30-minute appointment with James Bird, National Officer for BBC Children in Need in Wales and there will be 10 appointments throughout the day.

Details of proposals must be sent to dave@gvs.wales by February 26 .

*Full details on how to apply for BBC Children in Need grants can be found at the website; **www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey** or call the Wales team at any time to discuss a project idea, on **02920 322383**.*

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

You may have recently read in the press that Barry Town Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council are working in partnership to create gardens on the land at Cemetery Road.

There are plans to create a garden area on both sides of the road, provide a new community building and improve the approach road to the cemetery. It is anticipated that this project will be completed by the end of summer of 2016.

Barry Town Council would like to invite you to meet with them and discuss this project. They would welcome your input on what you would like to see in the gardens and community building to benefit the people of Barry and also if you want to get involved with either on completion this would be a good opportunity to register your interest.

The public engagement event will be held in the Glamorgan Suite at the Memorial Hall & Theatre on Thursday, 25 February 2016 between 3.00 – 8.00 pm and the Council hope to see you there.

For further information please contact Angie Norman, Acting Town Clerk on Tel: 01446 704920 – email: angienorman@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk

CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI

YMGYSYLLTU Â'R CYHOEDD

Efallai y gwelsoch yn y wasg fod Cyngor Tref Y Barri a Chyngor Bro Morgannwg yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth i greu gerddi ar y tir ar Heol y Fynwent.

Mae cynlluniau i greu gardd ar ddwy ochr y ffordd, darparu adeilad cymunedol newydd a gwella'r ffordd yn arwain at y fynwent. Rhagwelir y caiff y prosiect hwn ei gwblhau erbyn diwedd yr haf 2016.

Hoffai Cyngor Tref Y Barri eich gwahodd i gyfarfod â nhw a thrafod y prosiect hwn. Byddent yn croesawu eich syniadau am beth hoffech ei weld yn y gerddi a'r adeilad cymunedol er budd pobl Y Barri ac os hoffech fod ynghlwm wrth y naill neu'r llall wedi iddynt gael eu cwblhau byddai hwn yn gyfle da i gofrestru eich diddordeb.

Cynhelir y digwyddiad ymgysylltu â'r cyhoedd yn y Glamorgan Suite yn y Neuadd Goffa & Theatr ar ddydd Iau, 25 Chwefror 2016 rhwng 3.00 - 8.00 pm ac mae'r Cyngor yn gobeithio eich gweld yno.

Er mwyn cael mwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch ag Angie Norman, Clerc Dros Dro y Dref ar: 01446 704920 - e-bost: angienorman@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D917.

- **£2,000:** 110304.
- **The rollover, which is currently £7,000, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 346316, 427183, 217470, 104150, 300216, 678970, 825127, 866063, 437255, 423246, 167075, 209608, 527759, 816885, 170749, 930572, 848083, 770209, 987032, 442725.
- **£5:** 375773, 351964, 717762, 263120, 191254, 469692, 136612, 742916, 502477, 856968, 815206, 815064, 628030, 626038, 727107, 605405, 276035, 202624, 755886, 519323, 671047, 708571, 820145, 423279, 807303, 419895, 918606, 396190, 609018, 853009, 379721, 612137, 405655, 672241, 766025, 968448, 523213, 263470, 906229, 107574, 731712, 472264, 671343, 826269, 220647, 143221, 224254, 262735, 712053, 735030, 246780, 139812, 883740, 663281, 144887, 000948, 001206, 1985158, 005324.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

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SARA TELLS OF LIFE AFTER LIFE-CHANGING SURGERY

A year ago this month, Sara Evans underwent life-changing surgery – then turned up at an interview with a bra on her head – and got a new job!

Eight years ago, Sara Evans was referred by her GP to a consultant for a breast reduction operation as her large breasts had been the plague of her teenage years and the whole of her adult life.

While she had always been a relatively out-going person loving drama, singing and dancing, this persona was a façade hiding a lifetime of insecurity caused by bullying and general teasing about the size of her breasts.

Buying attractive underwear and wearing bikinis was not an option, for she spent her life wearing baggy clothes and hunching to try and disguise her bosom.

In addition, she was not able to undertake physical exercise as she suffered with severe back and shoulder pain.

She became more and more miserable and became bigger and bigger as she comfort-ate and piled the weight on – making the problem even worse.

Under NHS guidelines at the time, she had to be 13 stone or under to have a breast reduction operation on the NHS.

The consultant confirmed that while she was obese, he had to take into consideration that her breasts were particularly large and he had some discretion on this weight limit and gave her a weight target to reach of 13 and a half stone for him to perform the operation. It meant losing four stone.

In January 2014, she walked into a WeightWatchers meeting weighing in at 16 stone and 8.5 pounds.

By the beginning of November the same year, she had lost the 43.5lbs needed to lose to have the operation. She was referred back to the consultant and the operation was performed on February 10, 2015.

Sara before losing weight...

... and Sara today.

She carried on with the Weight Watchers Plan and has now lost 74.5lbs and is currently 3 lbs away from her goal weight.

In addition to the operation, she also recently been advised by her GP that she no longer needs to take medication for hypertension, which is also as a direct result of her weight loss.

Such has been the transformation in her health and confidence, that Sara applied to become a Weightwatchers' leader herself, and turned up at the interview with one of her large bras on her head.

It certainly did the trick, as she landed the role and she now has the confidence each week to inspire others to reach their weight loss goals.

She said: "Losing weight has been a huge turning point in my life not only for my health, but my everyday confidence."

Sara now runs weekly classes in the local area.

14% rise in cancer numbers in Wales

LATEST figures show an increase of 14 per cent over 10 years in the number of new cancer cases in Wales, according to a new report published by Public Health Wales on World Cancer Day.

The increase in cancer numbers in Wales is the result of people living longer, and an increase in many preventable cancers in middle-aged and younger pensioners, especially in women.

The report from the Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit (WCISU) demonstrates a clear link between lung cancer and areas of deprivation.

The incidence rate in the most deprived areas is around two-and-a-half times the rate in the least deprived areas, and the gap has widened.

Lung cancer numbers have increased by an average of 243 extra cases per year in women compared to 10 years previously.

Welsh women have one of the highest lung cancer incidence rates in Europe. The report also finds that lung cancer causes more deaths than bowel and breast cancer combined.

WCISU is publishing the most up-to-date data relating to trends in cancer incidence, mortality and survival in Wales for people diagnosed up to the end of 2014.

The report finds that lung, breast, prostate, and bowel cancers remain the most common cancers in Wales, and along with melanoma, they showed the largest increase in numbers over 10 years.

Breast cancer has higher rates in the least deprived areas, with the gap decreasing mainly due to increased incidence among women in the most deprived areas.

Although less common at the moment, liver cancer rates increased by 65 per cent in men and 42 per cent in women.

Norwegian airline flies into Cardiff

LOW cost airline Norwegian has signed a new agreement to continue its charter partnerships with Thomson and First Choice (part of the TUI Group) which will see the airline's first ever flights from Cardiff Airport.

It will fly a charter route to Tenerife on behalf of Thomson and First Choice. Passengers travelling to the popular holiday destination in the Canaries will fly on Norwegian's new aircraft which offers free in-flight WiFi.

Tenerife is currently in the top 10, ranked seventh of most popular direct destinations for passengers travelling from Cardiff.

Karen Switzer, Director of Aviation Planning for Thomson and First Choice, said: "The introduction of this extra flight to Tenerife demonstrates our commitment to Cardiff Airport and the local area.

It adds more choice of flights and flexibility for 10 and 11 night holidays to this popular destination and will allow our customers in the area to experience even more exciting holidays."

The Norwegian flight will operate on Tuesdays from May 3 to September 27.

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Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership

Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service Cardiff & surrounding areas and manager Phil Powell agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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HOLOCAUST REMEMBERED: 'Don't let history repeat itself' – a Muslim leader warns

Mayor Richard Young lights a candle in remembrance of genocide victims.

AT a ceremony that remembered the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, a Muslim leader in Bridgend has warned against the danger of history repeating itself – if everyone stands by and does nothing to stop extremist terror groups like ISIS.

Suleiman Hawas, chairman of Aberkenfig mosque, made the appeal when Bridgend County Borough Council marked Holocaust Memorial Day 2016, with a special commemoration to remember the victims of the Nazis' infamous 'Jewish solution' during World War Two and subsequent genocides.

In partnership with Bridgend College, the annual event was held in the Sony Theatre to restate a public commitment to remember the millions of Jews who were systematically slaughtered in the Holocaust, and the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

"This year's theme is 'Don't stand by' – both from a historical perspective and looking at what you can do now to not stand by. Over the years, there have been countless examples of people who didn't stand by. People who instead stood up to help those being persecuted," a spokesperson said.

Stories of those who 'didn't stand by' were highlighted, including acts of bravery by Frank Foley, Sir Nicholas Winton MBE, Janucsz Korczak, and Miep Gies.

This year, Jack Davies and Phoebe Lewis, from Bridgend Youth Theatre led the ceremony, while Bridgend College performing arts students, Olivia Hopper and Ceri-Anne Thomas sang two solo items.

Videos were also shown of community representatives making their pledges not to stand by and allow acts of prejudice, hate and victimisation to take place. In addition, the Taking Flight Theatre Company demonstrated that standing by can have consequences.

The invited guests represented a wide cross-section of the community and included the police, religious and community groups, politicians, schools and college students.

As part of the ceremony, the traditional 'Seven Statements of Commitment' were read by prominent members of the community, a candle of remembrance was lit by Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Richard Young, and a 20-second silence was held to remember all those lost in the Holocaust and genocides.

BCBC's Coun Mel Nott said: "As a sign of respect and remembrance, marking Holocaust Memorial Day is extremely important to the council, and our annual event aims to commemorate victims, honour survivors and commit to tackling prejudice, discrimination and racism in the present day.

"The appalling moments in history can be used to create a society based on a respect for difference, not a hatred for it.

"Our challenge is to ensure that the experience and words of the victims and survivors of the Holocaust and of subsequent genocides, continues to inform our lives today and becomes a meaningful part of our future.

"Lessons must be learnt in order to challenge and overcome hatred and persecution in our communities, creating a safer future based on respect and understanding. We must not stand by and allow racism, discrimination, homophobia, exclusion and hate crime to take place in our communities."

• *The Holocaust, which took place between 1941 and 1945, claimed the lives of six million Jews who were murdered in extermination camps, concentration camps, ghettos, and in mass-shootings.*

For more information about the Holocaust, visit ***www.hmd.org.uk***

To view videos of Bridgend county borough's HMD event, visit YouTube and search 'Bridgend CBC'.

ABOVE:
From left: Coun Smith, cabinet member for regeneration and economic develoment; Coun Gregory, cabinet member for resources; Coun David, deputy leader; Janice Gregory AM; Mrs Annette Young, Mayoress; Coun Richard Young, Mayor of Bridgend County Borough; Taking Flight Theatre company actors; Suleman Hawas, chairman of Aberkenfig Mosque and Rhys Gronow of South Wales Police.

Olivia Hopper from Bridgend College.

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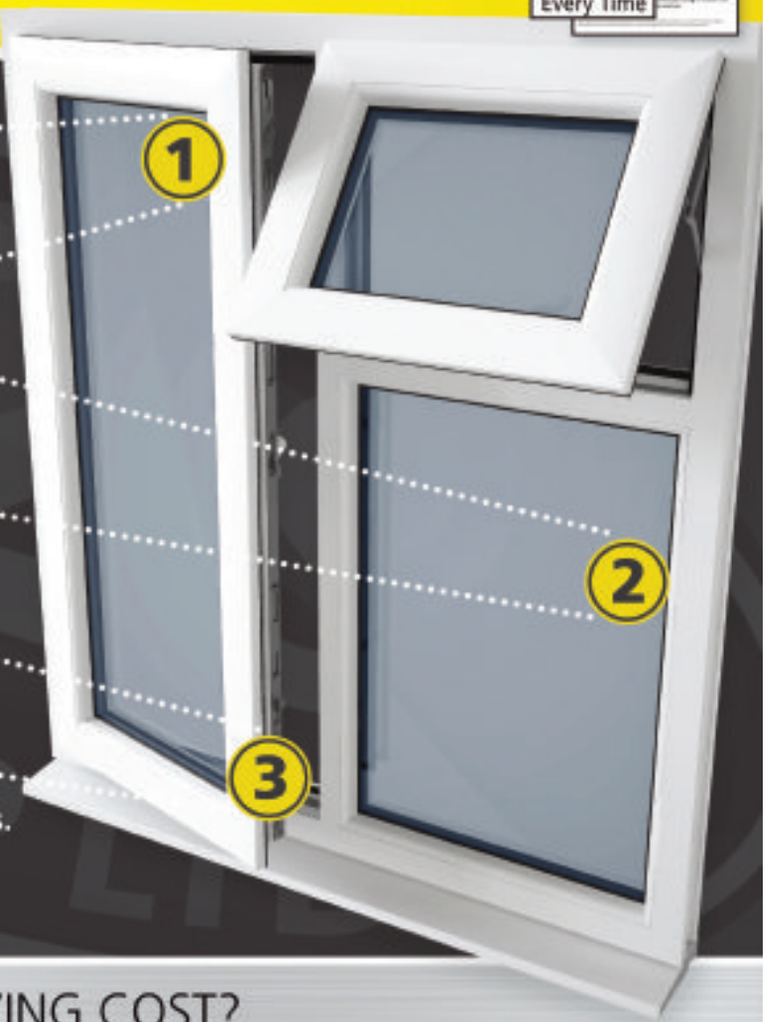

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Vale NFU Ladies going from strength to strength

VALE NFU Ladies (originally Bridgend NFU Ladies) has celebrated its 50th year.

Starting with just 22 members and an annual subscription of two shillings, the club was so successful that subscriptions increased to two shillings and sixpence, enabling the club to have good speakers and events.

Now in 2016, the club has just over 50 members and is going from strength-to-strength with excellent speakers, trips around the country and it is donating lots of money to different charities.

To celebrate the event a dinner was held at The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge on January 19, when all the stops were pulled out – the upstairs dining room really lent itself to the special occasion. The Bear Hotel excelled with its hospitality and service by the staff was exceptional.

Chairperson Ann Rees cut the celebration cake and it was distributed to all.

Mrs Ray Evans thanked the committee for organising the event.

The next meeting (as usual) will be held at Penllyn Village Hall on Tuesday, February 16 at 7.30pm. New members welcome.

JS

Defibrillator helping to save lives in High Street

Jane Hutt AM, Vaughan Gething AM, Richard Patterson and Bryan Foley.

LIFE-SAVING defibrillators are being promoted throughout the area this month in public places, such as Habanas in Barry High Street, open from 9am to late in the evening.

Vaughan Gething AM, Deputy Minister for Health, visited Habanas with Jane Hutt AM and Bryan Foley, lead volunteer for Barry First Responders who trained the high street businesses to use the defibrillator donated by Barry Rotary Club.

Jane Hutt said: "I understand Habanas' defibrillator was used on more than one occasion during the Christmas period, to help save lives in this busy shopping street in Barry. Wonderful service to the community!"

'Get your hat on' call to riders

FOLLOWING new legislation which came into effect at the beginning of January, equestrian supplier Countrywide is running an equine riding hat initiative over the half term break, to encourage young riders, as well as those who are more experienced, to wear the correct safety equipment.

By law, children aged 14 or younger must wear a hat to specific safety standards while riding on a road, but the new hat legislation requires people to get advice on the type of hat they have for their chosen discipline.

As part of the scheme, Countrywide is offering 20 per cent off all hats fitted and purchased throughout the campaign.

Free advice

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale is holding a free legal advice session on February 16 (10am to 12pm) at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

If you are over 50 and worried about a legal matter (other than criminal law) come and chat to a legal team.

There will also be a health information session at the health shop, where you can talk to a health care professional from the community oral health team, Cardiff and Vale Trust, at the same time (February 16). No appointment is needed for either session; contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Back to Bacharach

AN evening of Burt Bacharach's music will be performed in Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion on Saturday, March 19.

The Welsh-based production includes West End singers accompanied by a 10-piece band, to recreate Bacharach's timeless hits.

It will be supporting the Breast Cancer Now charity by donating £1 from each ticket sold, and is committed to raising a minimum of £10,000. For further details call MP Promotions on 01614 947934/www.mppromotions.co.uk.

Penarth Local History Society

A TALK entitled 'The Drovers of Wales' will be presented by Peter Davies tonight at 7.30pm (Thursday, February 11) at All Saints' Church, Lesser Hall, Penarth. New members are always welcome.

Vale National Trust meeting

THE next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 17 at 7.30pm at The Duke of Wellington when Henry Thomas will speak on 'Art and the First World War'. New members are always welcome.

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Fun rally aims to raise funds for Ty Hafan

AUTOMOTIVE parts distributor, Fast Parts Wales, has launched the Fast Parts Wales, Ty Hafan, Rainbow Family Rally, aimed at meeting its £10,958 target for Ty Hafan's 'Pay for a Day' initiative.

Taking place from May 1-2 during the bank holiday weekend, the rally is part of the company's plans to create a fun-filled, family-oriented event to raise money for Welsh children's hospice, Ty Hafan, based at Sully, in the Vale of Glamorgan.

It offers comfort, care and support to life-limited children, young people and their families, helping them make the most of the time they have left together.

The charity needs over £4million every year to provide this unique service free of charge to families in Wales.

Participants in the family rally will have a budget of £300 to purchase a car and paint it in rainbow colours, being as creative as possible. The motor factor chose the rainbow theme to represent Ty Hafan's annual rainbow run in which powder paint is thrown at the participants.

The rally will take place over two days with the cars leaving Fast Part's Abercarn branch and then embarking upon a fun journey, culminating at Barry Island and Ty Hafan.

If successful, it will become an annual event, so Fast Parts is calling on the local community and the aftermarket industry to be as generous as possible and get behind this worthy cause by donating here: *www.justgiving.com/FastPartsTyHafanRainbowRally*.

With a £100 entry fee, a total of 20 cars can participate, which will cement £2000 towards the ambitious target.

For more information on how to get involved, to sponsor the event, or to sign up to be a participant, please contact Nathan Travis at promotions@fastpartswales.co.uk.

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WHAT'S ON AND WHERE?

Cowbridge Art Society

TODAY, Thursday, February 11, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes Cardiff artist and demonstrator Paul Arnott who will give a demonstration of digital art (all presentations are projected onto a large screen, so they can be seen by all).

On February 25 Dr Jac Saorsa, senior instructor at Cardiff's Broadway Drawing School will lead a practical drawing session, and always offers an interesting and informative evening.

The society meets each Thursday 7pm – 9pm and visitors and new members are welcome (occasional visitor's fee, £3). For details of the society's activities see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

'Fracking' film

***VOICES From The Gas Fields*, a documentary on the subject of 'fracking' will be shown by Sustainable Wick Community Group on Friday, February 12 at 7.30pm in Wick village hall.**

After the film, there will be an open debate with three guest speakers. Entry is free and open to all.

War Museum

THE Barry War Museum will be open from 10am-4pm on Sunday, February 14.

In pride of place is a photograph of American doughboys on King Square, Barry, taken in July 1918; we would also love to chat to those who have been in the services.

The Barry War Museum is also open each Wednesday from 2pm-4pm.

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, February 14 at 2.30pm, 'A Lover's Tale' starting at Ogmore Portobello car park (SS 874763).

On Tuesday, February 16 at 1.30pm, 'Marconi and coastal path' starting at Cosmeston country park outside the visitor centre.

On Wednesday, February 17 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Cosmeston country park outside the visitor centre.

On Sunday, February 21 at 2pm, 'Lavernock – Cosmeston circular' startin at Penarth cliff top park.

Exhibition at Cowbridge Old Hall

FEBRUARY'S art exhibition at Old Hall (Cowbridge Community College) is by the Cardiff Print Workshop (see www.cardiffprintworkshop.com).

The workshop's members exhibit prints made by various techniques and in a number of different styles, and many of the works are for sale.

The Old Hall is open during weekdays (including evenings) and admission is free. For opening times call 01446 773831.

All Saints' Lent lunch

ALL Saints' Church on Park Road, Barry invite you to come and enjoy some good company and food at their Lent Lunches, to be held in the church hall from 12pm to 1:30pm on four successive Thursdays, February 18 and 25, March 3 and 10.

Soup, crusty bread, a selection of cheeses and tea or coffee for £5, including a raffle. All proceeds to church funds. Everyone is welcome.

ROALD DAHL HONOURED AT RHS SHOW

THE Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and Cardiff Council are busy putting the final plans in place ahead of this year's RHS Flower Show Cardiff.

From April 15–17, Bute Park will be awash with all things floral, bringing a vibrant celebration of spring to the heart of the Welsh capital.

At last year's record-breaking show, 25,800 visitors descended on the decorated showground, attracting everyone from keen gardeners and floral enthusiasts to families in search of a fun day out.

A floral focal point at this year's show will be the displays celebrating the Wonderful World of Roald Dahl, marking 100 years since the famous author was born in Llandaff, Cardiff.

Horticultural content capturing his imagination, creativity and some of his best-loved characters will be on display throughout the showground and will include a fantastical garden inspired by *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* created by award-winning designer Tony Smith, complete with a bubbling chocolate lake.

A 12ft BFG ('Big Friendly Giant') sculpture created by 'Out to Learn Willow' will greet visitors, and younger green-fingered enthusiasts will have the opportunity to take part in a 'Golden Ticket Family Trail' around the showground.

Speaking about this year's show, Katie Draper, show manager of RHS Flower Show Cardiff, said: "We have so much already planned for this year – it's set to be a truly spectacular event. From celebrating children's literary hero Roald Dahl, to food foraging and exploring plant life millions of years ago, there really is something for everyone, with even more content to be announced soon.

"The show really is a fantastic way to step in to spring and get some outdoor inspiration."

For more information or to buy advance tickets for the RHS Flower Show Cardiff, visit www.rhs.org.uk/cardiff.

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Mondays 5.30pm
Celtic Way Community Centre, Rhoose
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968 355119

Mondays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Tabernacle Church Kings Square, Barry
Lorraine 01446 407002

Mondays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Elfed Avenue United Church, Elfed Avenue, Penarth
Nia 07793 885581

Tuesdays 9:30am and 11.30am
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Helen 01446 750738/ 07968355119

Tuesdays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968355119

Tuesdays 5:30pm
Holy Trinity Presbyterian, Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

Tuesdays 6:30pm
The Old School, South Road, Sully CF64 5TG
Nicola - 01446 740394

Wednesdays 6:00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church, Church Road, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

Wednesdays 4:45pm and 6:45pm
St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-Y-Castell, Barry
Annamarie 01446 736534

Wednesday 3.30pm, 5.30pm, and 7.30pm
Bridgend Deaf Club, Coychurch Road, Bridgend
Helen - 01656 720963

Thursdays 10.15am
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Goosebumps goes bump in the night – *AND MAKES FOR A THRILLING WATCH!*

JACK BLACK'S recent career choices haven't really panned out. Having starred in well-received, but commercially unsuccessful films like *The D Train* and *Bernie*, Black's main success has come in the voice booth through the *Kung-Fu Panda* films (part three heading to cinemas this summer).

However, Black is in front of the camera in *Goosebumps*, a film based on R L Stine's series of books of the same name. When Zach (Dylan Minnette) moves to a new town, he meets his neighbour Hannah (Odeya Rush) – and her rather severe, over-protective father (Black).

When Zach and his friend Champ (Ryan Lee) enter Hannah's house thinking she's at risk from her father, they manage to unleash demons from the manuscripts of R L Stine – who is Hannah's father! Together, the four must work together to catch the demons before they take over the town and cause untold destruction...

The *Goosebumps* books, if you're of a certain age, tread the line between entertaining you and scaring you witless incredibly well. R L Stine's writing was clever and yet played to the teen audience with aplomb, quite a balancing act for any film based on these books to perform.

Incredibly, and perhaps surprisingly, the film achieves this with aplomb, an entertaining and wonderful film that keeps your attention and hits the right notes, whether its through jumps and chills, humour or spectacle.

The concept behind the story is a clever one – rather than adapt one of Stine's many books, they use the characters within a meta narrative that sees Stine as a character and the book's ghouls and terrors housed within his manuscripts.

There are the tropes of this genre that can often feel predictable

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

and by the numbers – the burgeoning love story, the life lessons, the shift in perceptions of characters – but here they are delivered with a nice twist or underplayed beautifully. You know where it's going but you don't mind sitting through it.

Given the fresh take on the narrative, the story moves through the gears with incredible ease and has much to offer, not least in the game and enjoyable performances from the whole cast.

While Jack Black's schtick can be hit and miss, here he is hugely enjoyable as the grouchy and misanthropic Stine, thrown headlong into the situation caused by the actions of the youngsters. Black is muted to a degree by the character, and it works for the best as what he does offer is a wonderfully watchable performance.

He is ably supported by Dylan Minnette's Zach, the new kid in town who is cool but not too cool, and the actor gives a likeable turn. Ryan Lee's Champ is very much the comedic sidekick, and Odeya Rush's Hannah is the love interest, but one who is given an interesting and intriguing twist.

With the rest of the cast populated by the likes of Amy Ryan, Jillian Bell, Timothy Simons and Ken Marino, there is no shortfall in terms of the cast, all of whom do a great job.

Director Rob Letterman has previous with Black, having helmed the misfiring *Gulliver's Travels*, but here it's his background in animation that comes to the fore, the film having both a gorgeous visual sense of identity, but also a degree of scope. There are several set-pieces that show ambition way beyond what you would expect, but tied into a sense of fun that is hard to argue with.

And that is what sets *Goosebumps* aside from the slew of teen-centric blockbusters that are becoming a mainstay of cinema – it is knowingly fun, doesn't take itself too seriously and offers up jumps and laughs in equal measure; in short, it's a scarily good effort.

VERDICT: Surprisingly far more satisfying and enjoyable than you would expect, *Goosebumps* makes for a really pleasing watch, its sense of fun palpable. It offers a few jumps, but nothing too scary, and the game turns from a solid cast pay dividends in this slice of family fun. *Highly recommended*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Hotel Transylvania* (2012), *Gremlins* (1984).

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Marie Curie Cancer Care

AMs and pupils 'get behind the daffodil'– for charity's appeal

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS joined forces with schoolchildren to 'get behind the daffodil' at the official Wales launch of the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal at the Senedd this week.

The Great Daffodil Appeal, now in its 30th year, is Marie Curie's biggest annual fundraising campaign and was launched by Minister for Finance and Leader of the House, Jane Hutt AM, and Marie Curie chief executive Dr Jane Collins.

The appeal is encouraging people in Wales to help the charity raise more money than ever before by simply giving a donation and wearing a Marie Curie daffodil pin, available from volunteers across the county, Superdrug stores, WH Smiths shops and Wyevale garden centres and many other locations throughout February and March.

The launch event gave Marie Curie the opportunity to showcase some of its work in Wales – most notably the work that the charity's 'Caring for Carers' project is doing to provide support for young carers.

Vale of Glamorgan AM, Jane Hutt, Minister for Finance and Leader of the House, said: "It is fantastic to see so many of my Assembly colleagues 'getting behind the daffodil' to support this year's Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal. I hope the people of Wales will follow suit by making a donation and wearing their Marie Curie daffodil with pride this February and March."

The event also saw some of Wales' top fundraising volunteers honoured for their support of the charity.

The Outstanding Contribution to Fundraising in Wales award was presented to the Cardiff fundraising group, who have raised over £75,000 for Marie Curie.

Sandra Chadwick was named north Wales Fundraiser of the Year; Nerys Thomas received the South Wales Fundraiser of the Year title; and the West Wales Fundraisers of the Year award went to the charity's Bridgend and Porthcawl fundraising group.

The awards were presented by Vaughan Gething AM, Deputy Minister for Health in ther Welsh Government.

He said: "I am delighted to once again help launch the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal. From speaking to the nurses who are here today, it is clear that they really do go the extra mile to provide care and support for people when they need it the most and the funds raised through this appeal really do make a difference."

Simon Jones, of Marie Curie, said: "Every year, we are astounded by the level of support we receive from the people of Wales, and I hope we can rely on their backing once again, as we raise vital funds to support people living with a terminal illness, and their families, across Wales."

*Last year, volunteers in Wales helped raise more than £260,000 by collecting donations from members of the public. For more information about the Great Daffodil Appeal, or to volunteer to collect for Marie Curie, call 0845 601 3107; or visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil. To donate £5, text *DAFF to 70111; or call 0800 716 146 to donate over the phone.*

Penarth volunteer Nerys is honoured by Marie Curie

A MARIE CURIE volunteer from Penarth has been honoured for her fundraising achievements.

Nerys Thomas has been a valued volunteer within the fundraising department at the Marie Curie Cardiff & the Vale hospice for 15 years, giving up her time to assist in a variety of activities that help fund care and support of people living with a terminal illness, and their families.

Nerys was in attendance at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay earlier this week, to receive the south-east Wales Fundraiser of the Year Award at the launch of the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal 2016.

Nerys took to the stage at the Senedd to receive her award from Deputy Minister for Health, Vaughan Gething AM. Intrepid Nerys has undertaken three charity treks to raise funds to support Marie Curie, conquering Mount Kilimanjaro, the Great Wall of China, and the Atlas Mountains in Morocco.

She also co-ordinates the placing of collection tins and daffodil boxes in local shops, schools and businesses, and provides office support to assist staff at the hospice fundraising office. Nerys also helps to raise awareness of the work of Marie Curie by giving talks to local groups.

Nerys said: "Fundraising is not something you do for the rewards, but this has been a lovely surprise. I'm totally overwhelmed."

Sara Bass, Marie Curie fundraising manager for Wales, said: "Nerys is particularly deserving of this award, as she is one of our star volunteers, whose contribution is invaluable.

"We hope this award goes some way to showing our gratitude for her amazing support."

Volunteers needed for Daffodil Week

THE Cowbridge Marie Curie fundraising group is looking for volunteers to help with collections during the Marie Curie Daffodil Week, which will take place from February 20-27.

Collecting is carried out between 10am to 4pm, in a maximum of two-hour 'shifts' at various locations in and around the High Street at Cowbridge.

If you have some time to spare for this worthy cause, please contact the Daffodil Week coordinator on 01446 771159. **MW**

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Community transfer 'could deliver better future for libraries'

CONSERVATIVES in the Vale have said they are going to be "watching closely" as five libraries in the Vale are handed over to local community groups.

The Vale Council is currently finalising the legal details of an asset transfer, so that Dinas Powys, Sully, Wenvoe, St Athan and Rhoose can be run by local bodies.

Welsh Conservative leader and South Wales Central regional AM, Andrew RT Davies said: "From the moment recommendations were published, the views of the local communities were emphatic and I joined them in urging the council to scrap their plans.

"This news is a welcome consolation for the many residents and community groups which have campaigned so defiantly to ensure the focal role of the local library was maintained.

"In many regards, this could deliver a better and more positive future for the libraries, as they will now be in the hands of the local community and people who care so passionately about the service it provides.

"Frankly, it should never have come to this, but as residents across the Vale we now need to hold the Vale Council to account to ensure they fully support the community groups over the years ahead."

The strength of protest varied from area to area. The chair of the Dinas Powys Community Library Group, Coun Chris Franks, said, "We all preferred for the council to continue to run the service, but we had to face reality.

"The alternative was closure or death by a thousand cuts. We are very sad that the excellent library staff were put in such difficult position.

"Our community library steering group is thriving and eager to get on with the job and meets monthly. We are preparing a legal constitution, policies, training and have a funding plan.

"Also, we have worked with the other library groups and have created a very good working relationship.

"To be fair, Vale Council staff have offered support and guidance," Coun Franks added.

***Coun Stuart Egan, Deputy Leader of the Vale Council, emphasised**: "Throughout this process, the council has made it very clear that we do not want to see any libraries in the Vale close.*

"The stark reality of the funding cuts imposed on the council by central government is that we cannot continue to support every facility in the same way that we always have. However, at no stage was a decision to close any libraries taken.

"Instead, we have undertaken nearly two years of work to identify the best way of ensuring these facilities remain open to those who value them, and are placed into the hands of those who will not only maintain the current service, but improve it.

"A huge amount of work has been undertaken by all those involved to bring us to this point. In the five community groups, we have found teams of individuals as passionate about the library service as we are.

"For the last eight months, we have been working with them to develop their plans for the libraries and have provided both training and support.

"If the transfer of the libraries is now able to go ahead, as we all hope it will, then I have no doubt that these groups will prove to be excellent custodians of these much valued assets," Coun Egan concluded.

Welsh Government unveils £85m funding package for Welsh NHS

THE number of nurse training places will increase by 10 per cent in 2016-17, as part of an £85m investment package by the Welsh Government in the next generation of healthcare professionals, the Health and Social Services Minister Mark Drakeford announced yesterday (Wednesday, February 10).

"Nurse training places will rise by 135 in 2016-17 to 1,418, an increase of 10 per cent, on top of the 22 per cent increase in 2015-16. This will be the highest level of nurse training places in Wales since devolution," he said.

The £85m investment package also includes an increase of more than 10 per cent in physiotherapy training places, on top of the 26 per cent increase in 2015-16; and 10 per cent more diagnostic radiography training places, on top of the 26 per cent in 2015-16, and a 5 per cent rise in therapeutic radiographers.

He reported that last year the Welsh Government increased the number of places available for clinical scientists by 52 per cent and this year will be expanding investment in healthcare science programmes, including additional training places in genomics, medical physics, biomedical engineering, molecular pathology, bioinformatics, microbiology and lab genetics.

In addition, investment to support the development of healthcare support workers will increase to £1.5m: "This will help people gain the right knowledge and skills to deliver care and support career development."

The package of funding would enable 2,697 new students to undertake education and training programmes in 2016-17 compared to 2,498 in 2015-16. Including those who will be continuing their education this means the total number of students and training places for 2016-17 is 7,384 compared to 6,881 in 2015-16.

New boiler means no more oil burning at Dyffryn Gardens

A NEW biomass boiler at Dyffryn Gardens is heating the only national tropical orchid collection in Wales.

The boiler will enable the property to stop burning oil and gas and move to a cleaner, renewable energy source – wood pellets made from the waste product of wood manufacture from mid-Wales.

The team at Dyffryn aims to develop the only national tropical orchid collection in Wales and the new energy set-up means they can embark on a journey to make this dream a reality.

Dyffryn staff haven't yet decided which genera of orchid to display because there are many possibilities, and it will take time to find and propagate the rarer varieties.

However, the team will be making an immediate start on expanding the current tropical orchid collection and growing orchids and carnivorous plants that would have been grown by the original owner of the gardens, Reginald Cory.

Chris Flynn, Dyffryn's head gardener said: "Dyffryn is at a really exciting stage in its illustrious history. We have lots of plans for the gardens in the next few years and adding a new tropical orchid collection is really exciting.

"Wales doesn't have a national tropical orchid collection yet, so we can really fill a gap in this area of horticulture."

Currently, Dyffryn uses around 40,000 litres of oil per year to heat the mansion house, glasshouses, offices and café. Other green initiatives being installed on site are ground source heat pumps and solar panels.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Porthcawl Floral Arrangement Society

ON Wednesday, February 17 at 7.30pm at Awel-y-Mor Senior Citizens' Centre there will be a flower demonstration by Carola Keanne. Doors open 6.30pm: a warm welcome to everyone.

Penarth bookshop

GRIFFIN BOOKS, Penarth, has two author events planned for February.

During half term, a drop-in storytelling and activity session takes place in the shop with Swansea-based children's writer Helen Docherty, author of *The Snatchabook,* who will be reading from and signing copies of her latest title for younger children, *Do You Remember,* on Thursday, February 18 between 10.30am and 12.30pm. Admission is free, with refreshments provided.

On Friday, February 26, debut author Julia Forster will be at Waterloo Tea, Stanwell Road, to discuss her novel *What A Way To Go*, set in the 1980s.

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start; tickets are now available from Griffin Books at £5 each, including complimentary snacks, and a discount on book purchases.

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The history beneath our feet: MINES OF THE VALE

by BRIAN KEITCH

WHO would guess now that Wenvoe, St Hilary, Colwinston, Llangan and Llanhari had a claim – albeit minor – of being mining villages?

There was no coal *per se* there (unless you stretch the geographic boundaries to Llantrisant, Cefn Cribbwr and Margam) but there is lead and iron ore.

There is some evidence that the Romans had a dig or two around the area – and the presence of small quantities of galena (lead ore) and haematite (iron ore) were raised hundreds of years ago.

South of the coalfield, there was an orefield of haematite stretching from Llanhari in the west to Rhydri and Draethen in the east. In addition, there was a significant outcrop at Coed y Cymdda between Cwrt yr Ala and Balas Farm near Wenvoe (it was gobbled up by Alps Quarry).

Apart from Llanhari itself, there were mines in the vicinity at Trecastell, Hendy, Mwyndy, Llwyn Saer, the Bute Pit and Maendy. In the second half of the 19th century, when the mines were at their peak – supplying the iron and steel works of south Wales – hundreds of thousands of tons of high quality haematite were mined – the most productive period being between 1870 and 1874 when almost half a million tons were extracted (422,892 tons to be exact).

However, the advent of cheap ore from overseas saw the local market collapse and by 1892, production was minimal and the mines closed. Large scale Ordnance Survey maps show clues where these mines were – with notations such as: old mine, old engine house, trial pit etc. Relics such as the Llwyn Saer engine house (now grade-2 listed building) and Llangan engine chimney (lead) crumble away as the last vestiges of an unlikely employer in the agricultural land that is the Vale of Glamorgan.

Expectations ran high with the discovery of rich iron ore deposits in pockets here – such as the case of the Wenvoe Iron Ore Company: "The Wenvoe Iron Ore Company... are understood to be disposing of their product as rapidly as it can be supplied... some orders have been declined in consequence of large demand, this looks like prosperity." (*Mining Journal 29/1/1859*.)

Official statistics record the output from Wenvoe between 1863-5 as amounting to 18,149 tons of ore. Then nothing! The pocket had been exhausted.

Today, a massive quarry has all but removed the Wenvoe iron mine. It appears the company – despite its name – turned to quarrying limestone.

One mine, however, survived until as recently as 1976 – that at Llanhari which served the East Moors Steelworks in Cardiff Docks – and in doing so kept a short section of the Cowbridge Railway in operation until 1977, after the last train from Cowbridge goods yard had quietly chuffed off back in 1965.

Then there was lead, which also occurred in veins in limestone, especially around Cowbridge.

Lead was apparently discovered in Colwinston as early as 1727 by a Cornish miner named John Roberts. Colwinston could boast as many as three mines – one off Twmpath lane – and the other two under the A48 road on Crack Hill. Apparently some of the brick arches are still extant.

The hills could still be alive with the sound of mining! In 1984, Highwood Resources Ltd, of Canada submitted a plan to prospect for silver and lead in the parish of Colwinston. The locals had none of it.

On the west side of Cowbridge, St Hilary took the eye of prospectors. A number of lead shafts and trial pits were sunk. The 1877 Ordnance Survey map shows the Bell Mine, and later editions show a rash of 'old lead shafts' were sunk in and around Coed y Seler.

There was also the curious 'Ianto Frank's Cave' near his cottage. It may be limestone country, but caves are rather rare in the Bro. To the north-west, at Llangan, was another lead mining area.

Of the Tewgoed mine, Gwallter Mechain wrote in 1815: 'Here the grand vein runs nearly east and west through the limestone, and leading to the noon sun. On the south side of the vein is a bluish calcareous earth called liman.

'The vein itself called the red vein, from the colour of its contents, has nodules of lead ore imbedded in it, with a rider of calcareous freestone. Three parallel veins, called the blue veins, run obliquely from the north-west into this red vein.

'The ore of the blue veins is galena, or laminar potter's ore. Near the junction of the blue veins with the transverse red vein, a shaft was sunk, and a rich belly of steel-grained ore was discovered. This induced the miners to sink two other shafts near the junction of the other two blue veins with the red with equal success.'

Further remains of the lead mines in the parish of Llangan can be found near Gelliaraul Farm (including the 30-foot high chimney stack). Records show that as far back as the 1660s significant amounts of lead from local mines were shipped from Aberddawan and Cardiff.

In the 19th century, companies were formed to work the mines. In 1852, Tewgoed Mine was started again; the Glamorgan Mining Company was formed and although between 1877-78 141 tons were enough to create the Glamorgan Consolidated Lead Mining Company (with a capital of £30,000) it too failed, and it seems that soon after lead mining around Cowbridge ceased.

For the keen geologist, lumps of galena can be found in outcrops of limestone – such as the eastern end of Sully Island (matt black when oxidised but grey-silver when chipped open).

Finally, *there was – according to local tradition – an 'Alabaster Cave' on the foreshore at Penarth, whence blocks of the rock found their way into the construction of the 'Alabaster Church' (St Catherine's) at Baglan.*

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
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Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

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Location:/Lleoliad:	Garden Cottage, The Rookery, Court Drive, Llansannor
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Affecting Llansannor Court, Grade 1

May affect a Public Right of Way/
Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2016/00063/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Erection of 5 no. two/single storey 4/5 bedroom dwellings with garages and diversion of public right of way
Location:/Lleoliad:	Land South east of Amberley House, Llantwit Road, Wick

Departure from Development Plan/
Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2016/00063/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Erection of 5 no. two/single storey 4/5 bedroom dwellings with garages and diversion of public right of way
Location:/Lleoliad:	Land South east of Amberley House, Llantwit Road, Wick

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

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Dated / Dyddiedig: 11 February, 2016

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager, Regeneration and Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

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Advertising Feature

Once the preserve of the wealthy who wanted to cultivate exotic species of flora, today it's estimated that around one in five UK homes have a conservatory.

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Once again there is the option to plaster the interior ceiling and add down-lighters. The LivinRoof also comes with the option of adding orangery detailing to enhance the interior and exterior styling of the conservatory.

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OBITUARY - Ewenny's oldest resident dies aged 100

Nantymoel Junior School, 1922. Tom is in the back row (centre) wearing the lace collar.

THOMAS NOEL WILLIAMS, Ewenny's oldest resident, died on January 31, aged 100 years and six months.

Thomas Noel Williams ('Tom' to friends, 'Noel' in the family) was born on July 25, 1915. He and an elder sister, Evelyn, were orphaned at an early age and were brought up by their grandparents in Oakfield Terrace, Nantymoel.

He left school and went down the Ocean Colliery at the age of 14, but most of his time underground was spent at the Wyndham Colliery.

While underground, he was involved in two mining accidents and had to leave the pit due to suffering from a perforated ear drum and astigmatism. He then worked delivering bread for the Gwalia Stores and subsequently for Ogmore Vale Bakeries.

When the Gwalia Stores building was moved to St Fagans, he was invited to the opening ceremony as one of the oldest surviving workers at the store.

On January 31, 1942, he married Phyllis Thomas of Waun Wen, Nantymoel. They moved to Bridgend in 1948 and took over the shop in Mackworth Street, which they happily ran until 1972.

He started work as the caretaker of the nursing home in Quarella Road and then at the Cottage Hospital in Merthyr Mawr Road, where he remained until his retirement. Part of his duties there was to act as a porter and assist in lifting patients onto the operating table.

He told of many patients being surprised to see the gardener all scrubbed up in surgical greens just as they were going under the anaesthetic!

On retirement, he and Phyllis moved to Ewenny, but, sadly, Phyllis passed away in 1989.

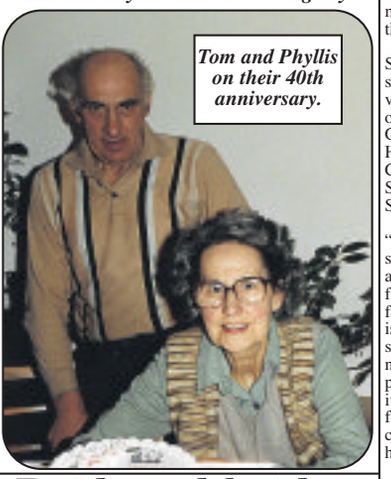
Tom's main hobbies were gardening, bowling and ballroom dancing, all of which he enthusiastically undertook until he was in his mid-90s.

He always had a zest for life and was a committed member of Hope Baptist Chapel, attending services every Sunday. He also regularly attended the Evergreen Club in Bridgend, where he was given a surprise party to celebrate his 100th birthday in July 2015.

Tom passed away on January 31 after a short illness. He is survived by daughter Elaine, son Ian and grandchildren Sali and Rhodri.

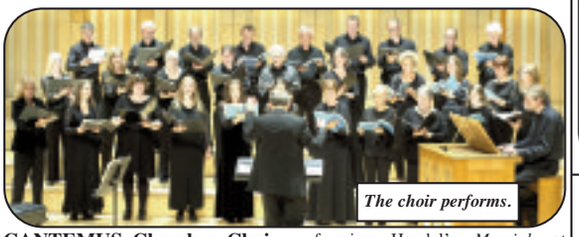
Tribute by SALI JENKINS

Tom and Phyllis on their wedding day.



Tom and Phyllis on their 40th anniversary.

Ewenny Priory date for Cantemus choir



The choir performs.

CANTEMUS Chamber Choir will open Ewenny Arts Festival 2016 on February 27 with its first-ever performance at Ewenny Priory Church.

Performing unaccompanied in the 12th century Norman church, which was originally built as a Benedictine priory, the choir will perform a variety of spiritual pieces from the Renaissance to the present day. The theme of the concert will be 'The Road to Easter'.

The main work will be Italian composer Ildebrando Pizzetti's *Requiem*, based on Gregorian chant and composed in 1922. Also included will be Henry Purcell's famous setting of 'Hear My Prayer', Antonio Lotti's moving 'Crucifixus' and William Byrd's joyful 'Laudibus in Sanctis'.

Comprising some 30 singers drawn mainly from the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff, Cantemus has gone from strength to strength in recent years, performing Handel's *Messiah* at Buckingham Palace in 2014 and releasing an acclaimed CD of Christmas music, *Nativity*, last autumn, which featured extensively on Classic FM. The choir has also appeared on The One Show on BBC One.

Cantemus' music director, Huw Williams, said: "I'm delighted to be performing at Ewenny for the first time with Cantemus. The Priory Church has a wonderful acoustic for unaccompanied voices.

"We'll be singing a programme of uplifting spiritual music, perfect for relaxing on a winter's evening! I hope plenty of people will come to hear us and enjoy the atmosphere in this stunning building."

Tickets for the concert, £13, are available from Ewenny Pottery on 01656 653020; from Helen Morgan (01656 667047); or Allison Felton (01656 663878). The concert will start at 7.30pm.

Bridgend bridge club results

THE results for recent events are:

Wednesday, February 3: 1st Graham Jones and Irene Thomas, 2nd Alan Heath and Rob Foreman, 3rd Tony Disley and John Evans. Winners on handicap Alan Heath and Rob Foreman.

Thursday, February 4: 1st Gareth Jenkins and Martin Brawn, 2nd Leila O'Hagan and Diane Reynolds, 3rd David Newman and Jan Watts. Winners on handicap Leila O'Hagan and Diane Reynolds.

Friday, February 5: 1st Tony Disley and John Evans, 2nd Jenny Vaughan and Irene Thomas, 3rd Jane Brook and Wendy Williams. Winners on handicap Tony Disley and John Evans.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall.

Play is scheduled to commence at 7pm so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle duplicate session. Master points are now awarded but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

TG

'Quit and be a winner' Olympic track star urges local smokers

Olympic star Christian Malcolm is teaming up with Stop Smoking Wales.

IT'S not often you hear an Olympic star say that winners quit but that's what Christian Malcolm is telling smokers in Maesteg.

The track hero is playing 'Coach Quit' for Stop Smoking Wales, in a bid to encourage smokers to give up smoking to help achieve their fitness goals in 2016.

With the Six Nations, Euro 2016, Olympics and Paralympics tipped to inspire sports fans in Maesteg to get active this year, the Commonwealth Games medallist is advising smokers that the health benefits from quitting will mean sporting activity is more achievable when you're smoke-free.

The Newport-born star, who won a Commonwealth Games 200m silver in Kuala Lumpur and a bronze in Delhi for Team Wales, revealed that smokers who quit using the free NHS support on offer from Stop Smoking Wales are four times more likely to quit than those who go it alone.

There are free local Stop Smoking Wales sessions in Maesteg at venues including ASDA on Castle St, Bron Y Garn Surgery in Maesteg Hospital, Maesteg Sports Centre, Woodlands Surgery, and Llynfi Surgery.

Christian (32) said: "Growing up, I was surrounded by smokers among my friends and family and I've seen first-hand how difficult it is to quit. Much like in sport, having a support network around you to push you when you need it and help you stay focused on your aims is crucial to giving up the habit.

"In sport, winners never quit. When it comes to smoking, quitting is the only way to win.

"Sport has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember and I know for a fact that I could not have got to where I am today without a coach to support me and a team to share my goals.

"Having a coach is massively important; they build your confidence, help you to correct your bad habits and provide you with crucial one-to-one support. If you're looking to quit smoking, you'll need the same.

"It's great to be part of a campaign focused on encouraging people to become healthier and try their hand at sports and I'm proud to have an active role in helping these people as Coach Quit."

Helen Sullivan, senior Stop Smoking Advisor at Stop Smoking Wales, said: "We are thrilled to have Christian on board as our Coach Quit to offer advice and support to those looking to reach their goals.

"It's going to be hard to get away from sport in Wales in 2016. The Six Nations is just around the corner, while our footballers, Olympians and Paralympians will dominate the summer.

"These events will inspire thousands of ordinary people to exercise, but smokers could feel left out as their habit hinders them in reaching their personal best. Stop Smoking Wales advisors act as personal Coach Quits for smokers. They're specially trained to coach you to overcome cravings and beat smoking for good."

Stop Smoking Wales is a free specialist NHS health service that provides sessions for smokers who want help to give up smoking.

People who are interested in receiving free help from Stop Smoking Wales can visit stopsmokingwales.com or call 0800 085 2219.

Porthcawl Bridge

THE club teams championship for the Margaret Thomas Bowl was won by John Cobby, Liam Sheridan, Rob Charlesworth, and John Beard, with the runners-up Connie Dick, Pat Cogbill, Trish Saunders, and Sue Anthony.

Other results at the club: Saturday, January 23: First, Maurice and Margaret Harris; second, Peter and Sandie Jenkins.

Thursday, January 28: First, Dil and Marian Evans; second, Emer Disley and Betty Longley.

Saturday, January 30: First, Tony Haworth and John Beard; second, Connie Dick and Marian Evans.

Thursday, January 28: First, Tony Haworth and Keith Davison; second, Rob Charlesworth and John Beard.

The monthly seminar will be held on Thursday, February 18, when the topic will be 'Splinter Bids'. The club meets twice a week – Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre 7pm–10.15pm; visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call secretary Trish on 01656 785794.

TH

Tom (14) is selected for under-16 golf squad

A JUNIOR member of Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club has been congratulated on his selection for Wales under-16.

At 14, Tom Peet is one of the youngest players in the squad of eight.

The tournament will be played over the Hilton Belfast Temple Patrick Golf and Country Club course between March 28 – April 2.

The tournament involves Wales, Ireland, Scotland and Holland.

Club captain Chris John said: "On behalf of myself, the committee and members of Pyle & Kenfig, I wish to congratulate Tom and wish him every success."

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- Without a Will, if you are married, you may think that your estate will pass to your spouse in any event, but this is not necessarily the case.
- If you are not married to your partner, the law does not automatically recognise partners as having the same rights as husbands, wives and civil partners, and your partner may get nothing.
- If you have children, there may be uncertainty about who will look after or provide for them, should you die.
- Certain people could make a claim on your estate if you have no Will, because they may depend upon you financially.
- Inheritance tax issues may arise if not addressed in your Will.

Wills should be kept up to date and renewed upon any change of circumstances; for example, marriage, divorce, separation, death of a loved one, or upon having a child.

Excluding certain beneficiaries in your Will may also cause potential difficulties as they may have the right to make a claim against your estate.

Special care is needed if you exclude persons who might expect to benefit under your Will.

Ensure that you have a Will in place and that it is up to date, to avoid any undesired consequences and complications.

Carli Evans is a solicitor with Messrs Passmores Solicitors and a member of Solicitors for the Elderly, a specialist panel of solicitors dealing with elderly client matters and the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.

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Expert advice can avoid Will disputes

BRENDAN SWEENEY of David Prosser & Co Solicitors writes:

It is estimated that 60 per cent of the UK population do not have a Will. A Will takes effect on your death and is an instruction as to what is to happen to your estate.

Probate disputes and challenges to Wills are becoming a growth area which often leads to substantial costs.

We now live in a world where family relationships are often very complex and expert advice regarding the drafting of a Will is essential. A professional advisor can also advise you in relation to inheritance tax and how you plan to minimise potential liabilities to inheritance tax

It is important when people make Wills that they are fully aware of their duties and financial responsibilities when they make a Will and ensure that they comply with the technicalities that are required to have a valid Will.

The cost of a professionally-drafted Will after taking advice is considerably less than the costs that can be incurred if there is a dispute regarding your financial affairs after your death.

Substantial costs can also be saved by taking professional advice early and putting in place Powers of Attorney whereby you appoint trusted people to make decisions about your property and financial affairs and health and welfare if your lose capacity.

The people appointed are made fully aware of their rights and responsibilities.

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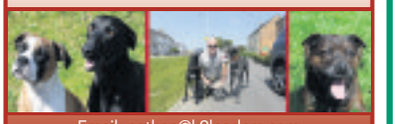

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ST ATHAN - £135,000

Three bedroom semi-detached house and garage situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Lounge Area, Dining area, Fitted kitchen, Family Bathroom. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and gardens to front and rear. No chain. Ref 850D.

MARCROSS - £275,000

Established three bedroom semi-detached house with large Conservatory to the rear with a rural and coastal outlook situated in the small village of Marcross. Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Cloakroom, Bathroom. Double glazed windows and doors. Oil central heating. Generous off road parking and a large garden with open aspect. Ref 847D.

ST ATHAN - £115,000

Modern two double bedroom mid terrace house situated at West Vale, St Athan. Reception Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas central heating. Good size store room/garden store. Open plan to front and well laid good size rear garden. Allocated parking to the side. Ref 824D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £175,000

Modern well presented Georgian style three bedroom semi-detached house and garage comprising Hallway, Lounge/Dining Room, Modern fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and off road parking. Neatly laid garden. Ref 832D.

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £180,000

Spacious three bedroom town house flat with central location. The property is of two levels and comprises Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room, Utility Room, Family Bathroom, En-suite shower room. Double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Exposed beams. No onward chain. Freehold. Ref 841D.

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £129,950

Three bedroom mid terrace house situated in a cul-de-sac. Open plan living area/Kitchen area and bedroom with wet room to ground floor. Three bedrooms and Bathroom to first floor. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Driveway with parking to front and low maintenance garden to rear. No onward chain. Ref 842D.

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Modern two bedroom semi-detached house and conservatory situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, new fitted Kitchen, Lounge/Diner, new fitted Bathroom. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows and doors. Re-decorated and refurbished throughout. Open plan to front with off road parking and enclosed rear garden. Ref 800D.

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First competition of the year for Rhoose Lifeguards

Ava Wong.

Ruby and Connie.

Girls board relay team.

THE last report we published from a Nipper competition was at the end of a summer beach and ocean event in 2015.

It seems a long time ago now but the team of Nippers from Rhoose Lifeguards have kept themselves busy and fit over the autumn and winter months preparing for the first of the indoor pool competitions, the Welsh Stillwaters Championships.

The Welsh Championships, held this year on Sunday, January 17 at Cardiff International Pool, saw children, aged seven-13 years old, take part in a number of races combining swimming and surf lifesaving techniques.

With a packed day of events a team of over 60 Nippers from Rhoose entered manikin carry, flipper and board races as well as a number of relays.

As with every year the team from Rhoose have a number of newcomers competing and this year the boys and girls in the youngest age group performed excellently in their first championships.

Some great results were achieved overall with special mention going to gold-medal winning Welsh champion Ava Wong and congratulations also to Evie Wong and Connie Millar for winning all of their individual races. A fantastic achievement!

Liz Wong, Nipper co-ordinator had the following words to complement the teams' achievements: "A huge well done to all of our Nippers who competed at the Welsh Championships. Not only did they put in some impressive performances in their races but also behaved perfectly throughout the day. Well done everyone and thanks for a very rewarding day!"

The team finished in second place overall.

Individual medal winners: Ava Wong – Gold board race, Silver Flipper race, Elian Davies – Silver board race, Bronze manikin carry, Connie Millar – Gold board race, Gold flipper race, Gold manikin carry, Evie Wong – Gold board race, Gold flipper race, Gold manikin carry, Ruby Phillips – Silver flipper race, Silver manikin carry, Ellie Bryan – Bronze flipper race, Emily Parker – Bronze flipper race, Ben Ewington – Bronze manikin carry.

A number of medals were also won in the team and pair events.

Lastly a big thank you to all of the Nipper parents, grandparents and friends for supporting the team.

Thanks also to all of those who helped with timekeeping and moving manikins around on the day. We'll be reporting again soon from the Junior, Senior and Masters Championships held again at Cardiff International Pool.

JF

When Marion and Lay Bye V1 beat Mandryka!

Report by ***Brian Lee***

THE Vale's Marion Thomas, who as far as I know is one of the few point-to-point riders who can claim to have ridden winners in Wales, Scotland and England, left a telephone message for me last week wanting to know if I could remember when women were first allowed to ride against the men in point-to-points.

Also, could I tell when she rode *Lay Bye V1* to victory over the Welsh wonder horse *Mandryka*.

Well, Marion, in my book *The Races Came Off – The story of point-to-point racing in South and West Wales*, I wrote:

"In 1967 the rules of point-to-pointing were changed to allow women to ride against men in races confined to the hunt(s) promoting the meeting. Chepstow's Celia Conley was the first to take advantage of the new rule when winning the members' race at the Curre at Howick on Milton Bradley's *Octroi*, who was winning for the first time.

"Another to take full advantage was Rose Harry, who in doing so, became the first lady rider to win two races in the same afternoon. *Mr Harry*, from Dinas Powys, riding at the Pentyrch at Penllyn, made all the running on *April Witch* to take the members' race, and later the ladies' open race on her *Zut*."

As for the year that Marion scored a famous win over Tom Morgan's *Mandryka*, that was in 1972 – the year that *Octroi* won over the Howick course for the ninth time in as many starts.

I wrote: "But it was not a happy day for Shan Morgan, for at the Vale of Clettwr, when partnering *Mandryka*, she allowed Marion Thomas, riding Mr D G Thomas' *Lay Bye V1*, to steal a long lead. In fact, at one stage, *Lay Bye V1* was a fence clear of *Mandryka*, and although the little horse made up considerable ground, he had been left with far too much to do and was eventually beaten a length.

"Marion's clever tactics in slipping the field paid off handsomely and she was rewarded with a time of six minutes and six seconds, which was a record for the Pencader course.

"There were also wins for two of Marion's relatives during the afternoon. Her brother-in-law Mike Thomas won the adjacent on *Abbot's Haven* and her cousin, William Tudor the maiden on *Redder's Boy*."

For the record, *Octroi,* in a career which lasted six seasons, won 22 races while the Welsh wonder horse *Mandryka*, who had graced the scene for eight seasons, won 38 ladies' open races, five men's open races and a hunter-chase at Chepstow when ridden by Cowbridge's John Llewellyn.

I attended and reported on all the above races that I have written about.

BRIDGE RESULTS

RESULTS of the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for February 7:

1st Geoff Tinkler & John Henson 63.10%, 2nd Debbie & Dave Lea 61.01%, 3rd Terry Evans & Alan Lewis 59.23%.

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• NO CHAIN
• ER = E
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REGENT STREET, BARRY
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• FITTED KITCHEN
• GROUND FLOOR BATHROOM
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• NO CHAIN
• IN NEED OF MODERNISATION
• (SOLD AS SEEN - SERVICES NOT TESTED)
• ER = E
£99,950

NEW

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• MID LINKED-SPLIT LEVEL
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• LOWER GRD: FITTED KITCHEN,LIVING/DINING
• FIRST FLR: TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• FAM. BATHROOM
• PARKING IN BLOCK/STREET PARKING
• UPVC DG - GC HEATING
• NO CHAIN
£104,950

NEW

GEORGE STREET, BARRY
• BAY FRONTED MID TERRACED
• TWO REC. ROOMS
• KITCHEN/BREAKFAST
• THREE BEDROOMS
• FAM. BATHROOM
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
• NO CHAIN
• ER = E
£105,000

NEW

HYWEL CRESCENT, BARRY
• SEMI DETACHED
• LIVING ROOM
• MODERN KITCHEN/BREAKFAST
• GROUND FLOOR BATHROOM
• THREE BEDROOMS
• DRIVEWAY/GARAGE
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
• NO CHAIN
• (SOLD AS SEEN-NO SERVICES TESTED)
• EPC - E
£120,000

NEW

EVELYN STREET, BARRY
• MID-TERRACED BAY FRONTED
• LIVING/DINING ROOM
• THREE BEDROOMS
• FIRST FLR. BATHROOM
• WELL PRESENTED
• NO FORWARD CHAIN
• VIEWING ADVISED
• ER - D
£124,950

NEW

BRAMBLE AVENUE BARRY
• MODERN SEMI DETACHED
• LIVING ROOM
• KITCHEN/BREAKFAST
• REPLACEMENT BATHROOM
• DRIVEWAY WITH AMPLE PARKING
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
• VIEWING ESSENTIAL
• ER=D
£142,950

NEW

DENBIGH WAY, BARRY
• SEMI DETACHED-WELL PRESENTED
• GRD FLR:FAM.BATHROOM
• CONSERVATORY, DINING RM, LIVING RM
• FITTED KITCHEN/BREAKFAST
• LWER GRD: TWO BEDROOMS
• FIRST FLR:LANDING RM
• W.C. CLOAKROOM
• UTILITY ROOM
• GARAGE
• ER = D
£152,950

NEW

ST. BRANNOCKS CLOSE, BARRY
• END OF LINK
• WELL PRESENTED THROUGHOUT
• LIVING/DINING ROOM
• KITCHEN/BREAKFAST
• TWO BEDROOMS (PREVIOUSLY THREE)
• FAMILY BATHROOM
• GARAGE/PARKING IN BLOCK
• CUL DE SAC POSITION
• VIEWING ESSENTIAL
£157,950

NEW

COED-Y-CAPEL, BARRY
• THREE BEDROOM
• SEMI DETACHED WIMPEY CONSTRUCTED
• THROUGH LIVING ROOM
• FITTED KITCHEN
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• NO CHAIN
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• WELL PRESENTED
• DESIGNATED PARKING
• ER = C
£114,950

NEW

GWENNOL Y MOR, BARRY
• MODERN LINKED DETACHED
• FITTED KITCHEN, W.C. CLOAK
• LIVING ROOM, CONSERVATORY
• SITTING RM (PART CONVERTED GARAGE)
• THREE BEDROOMS (EN-SUITE)
• DRIVEWAY/PARKING
• SMALL STORAGE AREA TO FRONT GARAGE
• VIEWING ESSENTIAL
• IMMACULATE PRESENTATION
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• NO CHAIN
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• UTILITY,SHOWER ROOM
• LARGER THAN AVERAGE
• OVER 200FT GARDEN APPROX
• DRIVEWAY/GARAGE
£310,000

GUTHRIE STREET, BARRY
• STUNNING PRESENTATION
• MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
• WALL ENCLOSED GARDEN AREA
• TWO SEPARATE REC ROOMS
• MODERN FITTED K ITCHEN
• TWO BEDROOMS
• FIRST FLOOR BATHROOM
• GARAGE - LANE ACCESS
• REFURBISHED THROUGHOUT
• ER = D
£121,950

MERIONETH PLACE, BARRY
• DETACHED BUNGALOW
• IN NEED OF SOME MODERNISATION
• LIVING ROOM
• TWO BEDROOMS
• FAMILY BATHROOM
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- 5.5 acres in total

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EPC = F

£499,500

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EPC = D

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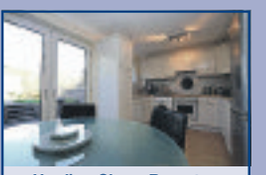

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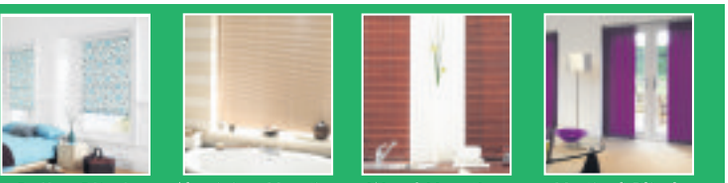
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Glamorgan Gazette	9,094	Paid 90p
Wales on Sunday	16,060	Paid £1.50

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Contact The GEM Classified Section on 01446 774484; or E-Mail Samantha at: samantha.miller@tindlenews.co.uk

Family Notices

MUMFORD
Vera

Passed away peacefully in Maesteg Hospital on 31st January 2016. Loving wife of the late John, cherished mum to Gillian, mother-in-law to Lyn and a beloved aunt.

Vera will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service to be held on Friday, 12th February 2016 in Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm. Family flowers only requested. Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent direct to Macmillan Cancer Support, Supporter Donations, Freepost, LON 15851, 89 Albert Road, London, SE1 7UQ or Wales Air Ambulance, Ty Elusen, Bay Studios Business Park, Fabian Way, Swansea, SA1 8QB.

All further enquires to Rosemount Funeralcare, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, CF31 3AP. Tel 01656 653156.

HARRIS
Sylvia (Née Hillberg)

Peacefully on February 5 at College Fields Nursing Home, Sylvia, beloved wife of the late Glyn, much loved mum of Paul, Adrian and Robert. Special mother-in-law to Julie. Loving nan of Nicola.

She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Sylvia is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at their Windsor Road Chapel, Barry (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Thursday, February 18 at 1.45pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Donations if desired may be made at the service to Cancer Research and Diabetes UK.

FULLER
Iris Beryl

Peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff on January 31, Iris of Afan Close, Barry, but formerly of Penmark. Dearly beloved wife of the late Les, much loved mam of Lorraine, Melvin, David, Leslie, Yvonne and Pamela, mother-in-law of Ed, Helen, Lesley, Lynne, Dave and Brad, cherished nan to all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until her funeral service in the chapel on Monday, February 15 at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery at 12 noon. Flowers may be sent to the funeral.

Please wear an item of pink.

CORDY
Sheila

Peacefully on February 5 at Baltimore House Residential Home, Barry, Sheila, devoted wife of the late Brian, loving mum to Paul, Neil and Sian. Cherished nan and great nan to all her grandchildren. A dear special friend to Alf.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Sheila is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her Requiem Mass at St Helens RC Church, Barry on Thursday, February 18 at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Family floral tributes only, donations if desired may be made at the service to The Alzheimer's Society in memory of Sheila.

The family wish to thank all at Baltimore House for their continued care and support shown.

CURTIS
Esther Elsie Mary

Peacefully on February 8 at Hazelhurst Nursing Home, Penarth. Esther Elsie Mary, aged 90 years, previously of Parkland Walk, Barry. Beloved wife of the late Douglas. A loved mother of Pam, John, David and mother-in-law of Jan, Lynn and the late Colin. Cherished grandmother of Sarah, Alex, Matthew, Becky, Victoria, Tom, great grandmother of Jessica, Mia, Oscar and Isobella.

Esther will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Thursday, February 18, service at All Saints Church, Barry, 12 noon, followed by Cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 1pm. Family flowers only, if desired donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for RAFA Benevolent Fund.

CLARKE
Robert James

Peacefully on February 3, 2016 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bob of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved husband of the late Dorrie and father of Peter, Liz and Roger. Grandfather to Harriet, Fraser, Oliver and Joshua.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major, until the funeral service in St. Illtud's church on Thursday, February 18 at 12 noon, followed by cremation in Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm.

ADBY
Alan Gordon

Suddenly at home in Ewenny on Saturday, February 6, 2016, aged 85 years.

Devoted husband to the late Mavis, much loved father to Julie and the late Michael. Cherished father-in-law to Andy, grandfather to Jonathan and Emma, Katie and James, great-grandfather to Amelia, Isabelle and Oscar. Will be greatly missed by all. Particular thanks to wonderful neighbours Frank and Mrs Bill.

Resting at J.R. and M.F. David Funeral Directors, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major.

Funeral to be held at 1pm on Friday, February 19, 2016 at Ewenny Priory Church, followed by interment. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

HOWELLS
Ray (Mrs)

Peacefully on January 30, in hospital, Ray of Cowbridge (former teacher at Y Pant Comprehensive School). Beloved wife of the late Bill, loving mother of Michael and Ian, dear mother-in-law of Sarah and Rachel, and a much loved nanny of Kate, Megan, William and Carys.

Will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

Funeral Thursday, February 11, service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge at 12 noon, where friends please meet, followed by interment at The Limes Cemetery, Cowbridge.

Family flowers only, donations if so desired for Tenovus c/o W.H. Preene & Son, Mwyndy, Pontyclun, CF72 8PN. (Tel 01443 223368).

CLIFFTON-BENNETT
Edward John

Peacefully passed away on 29th January 2016 in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, after a long brave battle. Ted, beloved husband of Margaret, devoted father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, brother-in-law, uncle and kindest friend to all who knew him.

(A very gentle gentleman to all).

Funeral on Thursday, 11th February 2016. Service in Coychurch Crematorium at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations please to Ward 5, Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend. Further enquiries to Adrian Oliver Funeral Directors, Bridgend. Tel 01656 665403.

Acknowledgements

CANN
Alasdair

The family of Alasdair are very grateful to, and would like to thank, all the staff of Bay View Lodge Nursing Home, the team from Ty Jenner and the Doctors of West Quay, for the tremendous care and love they have given to Alasdair.

ISAAC
Mary

Mary's family would like to thank everyone who attended the service at Bethesda'r Fro Church on February 1, and for the cards, flowers and messages of condolence.

A big thank you to the Rev Irfon James, Carole and Arthur of WA James & Son, Joan and Mary of Bethesda'r Fro; also the Rev Sue Fender, Angela and John for their help with the funeral.

Special thanks for looking after Mary, to the Vale Care Company, District Nurses and staff of Ward 11 of Princess of Wales Hospital. Diolch yn fawr.

CASTLE
Olive Jean (née Martyn)

Peacefully on February 1 at Forge Care Centre, Cardiff after a long illness. Olive Jean (née Martyn) aged 82 years. Previously of Aberystwyth Crescent, Barry. Dearly loved wife of Brian. A loved mother of Joanne and gran of William.

Jean will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry. Funeral service and Committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry where family and friends please meet on Monday, February 15 at 1pm.

Family flowers only. If desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for The Forge Care Centre Patients Fund.

McCORMACK
Douglas Stanley
1920 – 2016

Peacefully after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease at Picton Court, Porthcawl on Thursday, 4th February. Douglas, dearly loved husband of Margaret, devoted father of Linda and Celia. Father-in-law of Stuart and loving and proud grandad and great grandad, will be sadly missed.

Fuenral service at St John Baptist Church, Llanblethian on Thursday, 18th February at 1.15pm, followed cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. Immediate family flowers only, but if desired, donations in lieu would be appreciated for Parkinson's UK, 215 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1V 1EJ.

In Memory

LLOYD
My Dearest Michael

One whole year since we lost you.

No words can ever say how much you are loved & missed

You were kind and thoughtful and helpful to everyone you met.

Much love, Mum and all the family xxx

ANDREWS
Pauline

15 February 2015

Missing you always, but never love you any less.

Love always David x

JORDAN
Wendy (Née Youldon)

15th February

To our special little sister who would be 60 today.

We thought of you today,
but that is nothing new
We thought of you yesterday,
and will tomorrow too.

Love you always
Ann, Jane & families xxx

JORDAN
Wendy

15th February

Our dearest friend on your 60th Birthday
Wish you were here.

Loved and missed always
Glo & Sue xxx

STAVERT
Terry

Our hearts are still broken one year on 9th February
Sad are the hearts that loved you
Sad are the tears that fall
But living our lives without you
Is the saddest part of all
Love and miss you

Your loving wife Sylvia, Mark, Tracey, Lorna, Jon and all the grandchildren and great grandchildren.

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Birthdays

Public Notice

LYNETTE NEWMAN (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Archway Cottage 24 High Street Cowbridge Vale of Glamorgan CF71 7AB, who died on 08/06/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 15/04/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

GLAMORGAN LAW
68 Eastgate Cowbridge CF71 7AB

PETER RICHARD NEWMAN (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Archway Cottage 24 High Street Cowbridge Vale of Glamorgan, who died on 25/07/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 15/04/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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LLEWELLYN JENKINS (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Glan Yrys Colwinston Cowbridge Vale of Glamorgan, who died on 11/02/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 22/04/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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Public Notices

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990, SECTION 257 AND PARAGRAPH 7 OF SCHEDULE 14
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 2 PORTHKERRY (PART)
PUBLIC PATH STOPPING UP ORDER 2015

On 28th January 2016 the Welsh Ministers confirmed the above order with modifications.

The effect of the order as confirmed is to stop up part of Public Footpath No 2 Porthkerry between a point south of the rail line in Rhoose (NGR 307050 166100) and the adopted highway, Trem Echni (NGR 307054 166009) as shown on the order map.

A copy of the confirmed order and order map may be seen free of charge at the Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

This order comes into force on 11th February 2016 but if any person aggrieved by the order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the order, he or she may apply to the High Court for any of these purposes under section 287 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 within 6 weeks from the date on which notice is first published as required by paragraph 7 of Schedule 14 to that Act.

Dated 11th February 2016

Head of Regeneration and Planning
Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT

RHYBUDD O GADARNHAU GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS
DEDDF CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF 1990, ADRAN 257 A PHARAGRAFF 7 ATODLEN 14
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
(LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2, PORTHCERI (RHAN YN UNIG)
GORCHYMYN CAU LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2015

Ar 28 Ionawr 2016, cadarnhaodd Gweinidogion Cymru'r gorchymyn uchod a oedd yn cynnwys newidiadau.

Effaith y gorchymyn fel y'i cadarnhawyd, yw cau rhan o Lwybr Troed Cyhoeddus 2 Porthceri rhwng man sydd i'r de o'r rheilffordd yn Y Rhws (CGC 307050 166100) a phriffordd fabwysiedig, Trem Echni (CGC 307054 166009), fel y dangosir ar y map.

Gellir gweld copi o'r gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd a map y gorchymyn yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Dociau, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT, yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Bydd copïau o'r gorchymyn a'r map ar werth yno am £4.50 yr un.

Daw'r gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 11 Chwefror 2016. Serch hynny, os bydd unrhyw un y mae'r gorchymyn yn ei dramgwyddo'n dymuno holi ynghylch ei ddilysrwydd, neu ddilysrwydd unrhyw ddarpariaeth sydd ynddo, un ai am nad yw o fewn grym y Ddeddf uchod, ynteu am na chydymffurfiwyd ag un o ofynion y Ddeddf, neu reoliad a wnaed o dani mewn perthynas â chadarnhau'r gorchymyn, caiff wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i unrhyw un o'r dibenion hyn, o dan adran 287 Deddf Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref 1990, cyn pen 6 wythnos ar ôl dyddiad cyhoeddi'r hysbysiad gyntaf, fel sy'n ofynnol yn ôl paragraff 7, Atodlen 14 y Ddeddf honno.

Dyddiedig 11 Chwefror 2016

Pennaeth Adfywio a Chynllunio
Swyddfa'r Dociau, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Glen Harry Haulage Ltd of Langcross Farm, Pen-y-Turnpike Rd, Dinas Powys CF64 4HG is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep **2** goods vehicles and **0** trailers at **Langcross Farm, Pen-y-Turnpike Rd, Dinas Powys, CF64 4HG.**

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Glen Harry Haulage Ltd of Langcross Farm, Pen-y-Turnpike Rd, Dinas Powys CF64 4HG is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep **3** goods vehicles and **0** trailers at **Longlands Quarry, Corntown CF35 5BA.**

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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PICTURED: Lucia Cunningham, Lucy Newman, Mason Blackley; Ron Thomas, Keita Enfield. Jessie Blackley, Cian Allen, Joel Wells, Jake Quigley, Cody Jacobsen, Cameron Evans, Charlie Rogers, Thea Cunningham and Maddison Allen with their instructor.

Cadoxton Tae Kwon Do takes part in the English Championships

CADOXTON School of Tae Kwon Do took part in its first tournament of 2016 in Cheltenham, where over 500 competitors from all over the UK competed in the Global Tae Kwon Do International English Championships.

In the pattern categories, Keita Enfield took first place in the ladies' black belt, Charlie Rogers took a third in the junior green belt; while Jessica Blackley and Lucia Cunningham had a run-off for third place in the girls' red belt category, with Jessica taking third place.

Competing in the junior girls' green belt lightweight category, Charlie Rogers fought off all her competitors to take a well deserved first place. Young Maddison Allen and Thea Cunningham were in the same junior girls' lightweight blue belt category, Maddison just losing out, with Thea progressing through to the final – where she fought well to take the silver and second place.

In the girls' junior red belt middleweight category, Jessica Blackley fought her way into the final, coming away with silver. Not to be outdone by his little sister, Mason Blackley fought his way through the red belt heavyweight category eventually taking bronze medal.

Cameron Evans, competing in one of the largest categories on the day – the boys' red belt middleweight section – battled his way through each round to eventually come away with the bronze and third place.

In the junior boys' middleweight, black belts were Joel Wells, Cian Allen, Jake Quigley and, fighting up a category, Cody Jacobsen, who gave a good account of himself but was up against it in this larger category.

Jake and Cian went out in the earlier rounds, while Joel fought his way through to the final, coming away with the silver and second place.

Competing in the girls' black belt middleweight was Lucy Newman, who went through the rounds and came away with third place and the bronze.

Competing up a weight, Keita Enfield fought in the women's middleweight black belt category and had to fight hard to overcome some dubious judging, to eventually get third place.

The day ended on a special note with Keita Enfield (retaining her title for the third time) again the winner of the GTI 2014/15 Ladies Black Belt Grand Prix. This prestigious award was presented to her by the undefeated world heavyweight champion, Master Tony Sewell.

RT

Keita Enfield, Grand Champion.

Blast from the past – 1998

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

BRIAN LEE, who is celebrating 50 years of reporting on the Welsh hunt-racing scene, this week takes a look back to the time the Llangeinor Hunt staged their annual point-to-point for the first time at Laleston and under the heading 'GEM Correspondent Tips 33-1 Winner', this is what he reported:

The Llangeinor Hunt staged their annual point-to-point over a new course at Laleston near Bridgend, on Saturday (May 2), and officials are to be congratulated on getting the course ready at such short notice after losing their usual course at Margam.

The viewing was more than satisfactory from both fields and, with a few improvements, such as the resiting of the numbers' board and a roped area from the last fence to the winning post, the course can be improved upon for next year. One rider summed up the three circuit course as "a typical Welsh track."

However, local rider Tim Vaughan (18) , who had never ridden a double before, let alone a treble, will always have happy memories of the track as he scored a hat-trick on *Cairneymount* (members), *Abbey Waters* (maiden division one) and *Mountain Slave* (maiden division three).

Local farmer Bill Howells admitted to winning £2,000 on his mare *Mountain Slave* who was finishing a race for the first time in six starts!

Another shock winner was *Willchris* who delayed the start of the confined race but, when he was persuaded to line up made all the running to give 17-year-old Ebbw Vale schoolboy Greg Richards his first winner.

Willchris's win was no surprise to your correspondent as, when interviewed by BBC Wales's Owen Money before the race, I had told him to back it. A delighted Owen told me later that he did, and won £66!

Llandow's Bob Mason had his first win as a trainer when his mare *Bit Of A Citizen*, took the men's open race. Ridden by the Vale's Evan Williams, *Bit Of A Citizen* scored by five lengths from *Sun Of Chance*.

Pip Jones rode her 19th winner of the season on *High Guardian* in the intermediate. Owned by Ian Brice of St Hilary, *High Guardian* was winning for the fourth time this season.

In the ladies'open race, Keith Pearce's *Ozzie Jones* made it three wins in a row with his daughter Lucy aboard.

I also reported that *Saffron Moss,* owned and trained by former Cowbridge rider Ross Farr and his wife Shan, was a shock 33-1 winner of the Dunraven Bowl South and West Wales point-to-point champion hunter chase at Chepstow on April 21.

Those few punters who backed *Saffron Moss* on the tote were rewarded with odds of 106-1!

Mr Farr won the Welsh point-to-point riders' championship on one occasion and Mrs Farr who, as Shan Morgan, rode Wales' most famous point-to-pointer, *Mandryka*.

In the 1970s, *Mandryka* won 44 races, including a hunters' chase at Chepstow with Cowbridge's John Llewellyn in the saddle.

For the record, *Saffron Moss* was ridden by the Vale' s Fiona Wilson, who was a Welsh champion point-to-point rider.

You can e-mail your horse racing memories, stories or pictures to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or telephone him on 02920 736438.

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COTTRELL PARK CLUB LANDS MAJOR AWARD!

Picture by Steve Pope.

COTTRELL PARK Golf Resort has been named '2015 Future Financials Welsh Golf Club of the Year' at the Golf Union of Wales annual awards ceremony at Celtic Manor Resort.

The resort, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, was awarded the honour because of its diversity, outstanding customer service and commitment to the environment.

The ambitious club has seen over 20,000 golf visitors in the past 12 months, an increase of two per cent on the previous year, due to its development and expansion of wide-ranging leisure facilities.

There have been 27 weddings and six wedding fayres, firmly establishing the resort as a an elegant venue for weddings with award winning cuisine.

Cottrell Park Resort also hosts corporate parties and team building events, attracting a wider demographic of visitors to experience the vast facilities.

While the club prides itself on being a welcoming resort that doesn't alienate local guests and tourists, it keeps the traditions and etiquette of golf at its heart.

Head greenkeeper, Paul Morgan who has already celebrated his own personal 20th anniversary as a valued employee of Cottrell Park, has seen the club grow from its inception in the mid 1990s to the two 18-hole championship-maintained golf courses on offer today.

Derek Smith, general manager, was delighted with the accolade: "This is the result of many years of hard work by each and every person at the resort, and I couldn't wait to go back and let everyone know.

"We aim to be accessible to all but 40 years in this industry has taught me that it is equally important to remain loyal to our members and this award proves that the team of staff we have here have delivered on every level.

"I'd also like to thank the owners of the resort David and Jonathan Johns-Powell for their continued support, their vision and their willingness to always invest in the resort"

Customer service has been a high priority at the resort which Smith attributes much of the resorts success to.

Barrivale Bridge Club results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for February 2:

1st Kay Dyer & Mike Close 64.29%; 2nd Debbie & Simon Richards 58.33%; 3rd Huw & Celia Thomas 55.95%. Dave Reed and Bryn Gough won on handicap.

The 2015 team winners were Irene Thomas, Jenny Vaughan, Mike Best and Mike Close (*pictured above*).

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

Brynhill ladies' teams look back over a busy year of golf

Brynhill Golf Club ladies' team captains at the dinner.

BRYNHILL Golf Club ladies section has three successful teams, all competing in the Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire ladies county golf league.

On Thursday, the teams of 2015 got together at their club for a celebratory dinner with the ladies' captain, Mrs Liz Fine.

The team captains, Mrs Sam Pascoe (first team) Mrs Rose Pitman (second) and Mrs Carole Bumford (third) duly paid for all the drinks as a 'thank you' to the members for their commitment over the past year. A fun night was had by all.

LT

The teams at the county netball tournament.

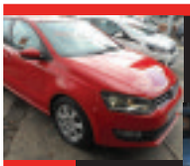
Cowbridge Comp girls selected for county and national squads

CONGRATULATIONS to the following pupils who were selected to represent Cardiff and the Vale in the recent County Netball tournament - a fantastic achievement, well done girls!

Under-14 - Bethan Edwards, Frankie Coates, Helena McCormack; under-16 - Annabel Hegarty and Selina Radcliffe

Also, congratulations to Daisy Connolly in year 9, who was been selected to attend the Wales National under-15 football camp on February 9-10 - we wish her well.

Follow The GEM's dedicated sports Twitter feed - *@sport_gem*



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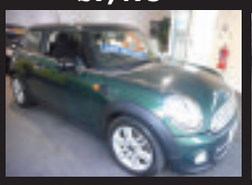

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12 RENAULT Twingo Dynamique 3-Dr 1.1cc
In Fuchsia red, 39,000 miles, low insurance
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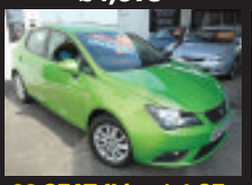
59 HONDA Jazz 1.4 V-Tec Ex
In electric blue, sought after model with panoramic roof
£5,295



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62 KIA Picanto 1.0 5-Dr
In black, 41,000 miles, 1 owner, free-road tax
REDUCED BY £500 TO **£4,495**

62 PEUGEOT 208 1.4 Active 3-Dr
In metallic purple, 16,000 miles, low insurance
£6,995

13 MAZDA 2 TS 1.3TS 5-Dr
In red, 17,000 miles, 1 owner, £30 road tax
£6,495

11 **JAGUAR XK 5.0 V8 Convertible Auto (Special Edition)** Silver with black & cream leather, 32,000 miles, superb throughout **£29,995**
62 **BMW 520 D SE** In silver with black leather, 41,000 mile executive diesel saloon at **£15,995**
60 **JAGUAR XF 3.0 Diesel Premium Luxury 'S'** In black with black leather, 49,000 miles **£15,495**
59 **BMW X3 XDrive 2.0 D M Sport Automatic** In met black with tan leather, 61,000 mile diesel 4x4 at **£13,495**
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61 **SKODA Fabia 1.6 Diesel Scout Crios Estate** In met grey, 23,000 miles **£7,995**
09 **HONDA Civic 2.0 Type R** In black, 49,000 miles, sports hatch at **£7,995**
54 **MERCEDES SLK 200 Auto** In silver/black leather, 58,000 miles, superb convertable at **£7,695**
62 **SUZUKI Swift 1.2 SZ4 5-Dr** In black, 16,000 miles, 1 owner, high spec **£7,495**
12 **FORD Fiesta Titanium TDCi 70 1.4cc** In silver, 36,000 miles, alloys, bluetooth **£7,495**
64 **MG3 3 Style 1.5 VTi 5-Dr** In yellow, 3,000 miles with a/c alloys etc ..... REDUCED TO **£6,995**
13 **KIA Venga '2' Automatic 1.6 5-Dr** In black, 37,000 miles, 1 owner **£6,995**
62 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDi Zetec 3-Dr** In white, 49,000 mile new shape diesel at **£6,995**
62 **PEUGEOT 208 1.4 Active, 3-Dr** metallic purple, 16,000 miles, low insurance **£6,995**
12 **SKODA Roomster 1.6 TDi SE Plus** In black, 39,000 miles, 1 owner ..... REDUCED BY £500 TO **£6,995**
60 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 SE Automatic 5-Dr** In met grey, 35,000 miles **£6,995**
10 **VW EOS 2.0 TDi Individual** In red with black leather, fantastic value diesel convertible at **£6,995**
59 **VW Golf Plus 1.4 TSi SE** In silver, 50,000 miles, host of extras, superb example **£6,995**
61 **VAUXHALL Insignia 1.8 Exclusive** In silverlake, 43,000 miles, 1 owner **£6,795**
13 **MAZDA 2 TS 1.3TS 5-Dr** In red, 17,000 miles, 1 owner, £30 road tax **£6,495**
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62 **SEAT Ibiza 1.4 SE 5-Dr** In verde lime, 22,000 miles, 1 owner ..... REDUCED BY £1000 TO **£6,495**
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10 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 SE 5-Dr** In met blue, 68,000 miles, 2 owners **£5,495**
61 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDi Edge Econetic 5-Dr** In silver, 71,000 miles, fantastic MPG & free road tax **£5,495**
59 **FORD FIESTA 1.2 Zetec 5-Dr** In met-blue, 54,000 miles with a/c etc **£5,495**
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58 **VW Polo 1.4 TDi 5-Dr Match** In silver, 38,000 miles, low running costs **£4,995**
09 **VW Polo 1.2 Match 5-Dr** In black, 52,000 miles, low running costs **£4,795**
58 **MAZDA 6 TS2 Diesel 2.0 5-Dr** In met-black, 74,000 mile family hatch **£4,795**
12 **RENAULT Twingo Dynamique 3-Dr 1.1cc** Fuchsia red, 39,000 miles, low insurance **£4,695**
62 **KIA Picanto 1.0 5-Dr** In black, 41,000 miles, 1 owner, free-road-tax ..... REDUCED BY £500 TO **£4,495**
60 **FORD Ka 1.2 Zetec** In silver, 50,000 miles with a/c, alloys etc **£4,495**
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Barry to face Barry in chess encounter!

IT is always nice to see players returning from a sabbatical, no matter how long it may be.

I noticed that this week Tom Davies played his first match for almost two years for Bridgend Central. He becomes the third Tom Davies to play this season with the others representing North Cardiff and St John's College in the Minor League.

For the Barry Chess Club, there was only one match to consider this week. In division one, our two teams, the Bosons and the Camelots met.

This produced an interesting dilemma for team captain Ken Hannah. A big victory for the Bosons would enhance their chances of finishing in third place.

A big victory for the Camelots would enhance ever so slightly the meagre chance that the Camelots have of avoiding relegation.

This however is Barry. We are never ones to take the easy route. The teams were selected with three matches that should be close but the Bosons were expected to win on the top two boards to win the match reasonably narrowly. As I said this is Barry.

The top three boards were drawn. John Stephenson for the Camelots took board 5 so the outcome of the match rested on board 4.

Although the Camelots held an advantage in a long drawn-out game, Stephen Bonutto ran out the winner for the Bosons when his opponent's flag fell. So the match was drawn.

Honours even but this really doesn't do much good for either team – still there is always next week.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

Champ Maisie (14) inspires gymnasts

THE YMCA Barry's female competitive gymnastics squad had an exciting visitor to help with their training last week.

Maisie Methuen (14) is one of Britain's most promising gymnasts, who even at this young age has had huge success.

This includes becoming the 2014 British Espoire Champion, the 2015 British Junior Silver medallist, the 2015 Welsh Junior Champion and even winning a historic silver medal for her beam routine at the European Youth Olympics.

Maisie, with all this experience and knowledge, certainly inspired the YMCA Barry gymnasts to progress further.

Maisie spent the session coaching and passing on her specialist knowledge to help improve skills.

The gymnasts also had the opportunity to ask Maisie questions about her experiences (they even got a little demonstration!).

YMCA Barry would like to say a big 'thank you' to Maisie. All the gymnasts finished the session truly inspired by Maisie's achievements and determined to improve their own gymnastic skills.

All the YMCA Barry gymnasts are looking forward to prove they are a force to be reckoned with in 2016.

YMCA Barry offers a range of classes for boys and girls from toddler classes to elite levels in male, female and rhythmic gymnastics all delivered by very qualified coaches. We are also expanding our activities to now include cheerleading as well adult gymnastics for all abilities.

This is a great way to have fun and keep fit! If you would like more information about any of our classes please ring 01446 724000, or email sophie@ymcabarry.org.uk.

SE

CHARITY SEVENS EVENT IN BARRY

BARRY Comprehensive School is getting set to host the largest cross border sevens tournament in Wales this year.

The tournament will be held on Sunday, February 28 at Barry Rugby Club on Merthyr Dyfan Way and will see 32 of Britain's best under-13 school teams competing.

The rugby starts at 10.15am with the four finals scheduled for 4pm, and the day should provide an excellent level of competition.

Proceeds from the day will go towards the school's Sri Lanka charity appeal as well as helping fund the school's rugby programme.

The club will be open all day with refreshments and food available and the bar will also be open.

"We are very excited about this event and hope to get a lot of supporters attending," said Dai Manley, the tournament organiser.

"Barry Rugby Club have been extremely helpful in letting us use their facilities and local businesses New Broad Street Motors and the Macron Sportstore, Cardiff, have been fantastic with sponsorship of the event."

Teams are coming from as far afield as Devon, Doncaster and Sutton Coldfield to take part, as well as Cardigan, Llandovery and Monmouth, so we have representatives from all over the country, not to mention local sides Barry Comprehensive, Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and Cowbridge.

Entry on the day is £3 for adults and £1 for children and all members of the public are welcome to come and watch top class school rugby.

DM

The Barry and District league results and tables

CRIB DIVISION 1:

West End 8, Moors Boys 7; West End Runaways 7, Liberals 8; Wyndham Cons 6, Rhoose Social 9.

League table: Wyndham Cons 119, West End 118, West End Runaways 112, Liberals 105, Rhoose Social 97, Cadoxton Cons 93, Moors Boys 91.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Sea View B 6, Allsorts 1; Rugby Club 6, Cambrian Flyers 1; Rhoose Social C 5.5, Liberals C 1.5; West End D 0.5, Rhoosters 6.5; Liberals A 6, Rhoose Social B 1; Barries Boys 3, Rhoose Social A 4; West End C 5, Slammers 2.

League table: Sea View B 76, West End D 69, Rugby Club 63.5, King William XII 59.5, West End C 55, Rhoose Social B 54, Barries Boys 53.5, Liberals A 50, Slammers 49.5, Allsorts 46, Rhoosters 46, Rhoose Social A 44.5, Rhoose Social C 43, Liberals C 36.5, Cambrian Flyers 31.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

HarbourB 4, CaddyAllstars 1; Rhoose Social C 1, Wyndham Cons A 4; Cadoxton Cons Z 4, Market Street C 1; Rhoose Social B 0, Cadoxton Cons B 5; West End C 1, Savoy A 4.

League table: Harbour B 65, Savoy A 63, Cadoxton Cons B 47, Wyndham Cons A 47, West End C 43, *Cadoxton Cons Z 39, Rhoose Social C 32, Rhoose Social B 30, Caddy Allstars 28, Market Street C 25, Penarth Cons B 22.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Sully Sports A 2, Market Street B 3; Cadoxton Cons A 2, Services Social B 3; Savoy B 3, Wyndham Cons C 2; Liberators 3, West End A 2; West End B 3, Wyndham Cons D 2.

League table: Liberators 55, Penarth Cons A 50, Services Social B 50, Market Street B 49, Savoy B 49, Wyndham Cons C 39, Cadoxton Cons A 39, West End A 33, Sully Sports A 32, West End B 30, Wyndham Cons D 24 (* = points deducted).

All league and cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

Follow The GEM's dedicated sports Twitter feed - @sport_gem

Cowbridge darts league round-up

ON Tuesday February 2, an interesting evening of league darts was played.

The Edmondes B beat the Old Post Ladies 8-1 to strengthen their hold on top stop, while in the chasing pack the Highwayman Inn took over second place from Llanharry by beating them 6-3.

In the other games the Six Bells Inn beat the Edmondes A 8-1 and the Farmers Arms beat the Edmondes C 7-2. The Farmers B (H&H) did not have a game.

The league standings are: Edmondes B (65 points), Highwayman Inn (61), Llanharry (57), Edmondes A (53), Farmers Arms (52), Six Bells Inn (49), Edmondes C (45), Farmers B (H&H) (34) and Old Post Ladies (16).

Next Tuesday, February 16, the completion of the Clive Blick trophy on January 26, means that no matches are scheduled.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Evan's Oscar winner!

LLANCARFAN trainer Evan Williams saw his nine-year-old bay gelding *Oscar Sunset* land the two-miles novices' chase at Chepstow last Friday.

Partnered by 5lb claimer Conor Ring, *Oscar Sunset* won by three-and-a-quarter lengths from the favourite *Baltimore Rock*.

This was Evan's 22nd winner over the last five years at Chepstow and only English trainers Philip Hobbs and David Pipe have saddled more.

There are 126 entries for this year's Grand National in April and Evan, whose great ambition is to win the world's greatest steeplechase, has entered three of them - they are *Buywise, Aerlite Supreme* and *Firebird Flyer*.

BRIAN LEE

John Barnes' Penarth visit

LIVERPOOL FC and England legend John Barnes was recently in the Vale, starring in a sports dinner held at the Vale Sports Arena in Penarth supporting PG10 Coaching.

Hundreds of guests where given opportunities to learn about Barnes' career achievements and he told stories from a successful professional football career and offered an insight into the successful Liverpool sides he played for – and also his opinions on the 1990 World Cup in Italy.

Further sports dinners are planned with sporting names attending the Vale Sports Arena including Craig Bellamy, Andrew Cole and Paul Gascoigne.

All events are at the Vale Sports Arena and guests will enjoy a three course meal, auctions, games, Q&A, guest speakers and much more.

For tickets please email info@valesportsarena.co.uk.

PG

Meeting date arranged

THE pre-season meeting of Llantwit Major lady bowlers will now be held on Monday, March 7 at 10am.

All members are requested to attend, or send their apologies to the secretary.

If you would like to join or find out more about the opportunities of learning to bowl, please come along.

CW

BARRY AND DISTRICT LADIES SKITTLES LEAGUE

LATEST results for January 11:

First division: SV Gals (J Richard 35) 288, Special Angels (C Wills, P Grisdale 31) 295; Bobby's Girls (P Martin 31) 268, Space Finders (K Jackson, R Whyman, D Cleaver) 275; Colcot Ladies (K Taylor, H Edwards 23) 247, Coppers (L Tiley 30) 270; Breakaways (N Smith 33) 317, Baker's Dozen (S Davis 32) 324; Barry Stars (C Lambeth 39) 312, Cigar Ladies (K Richards 32) 336; Family Affair (J Walden 30) 277, Castle Bandits (D Collard 27) 241; Allsorts (J Jones 26) 246, Family and Friends (J Jones, C Matthews 27) 258.

Second division: Pila Palas (A William 38) 330, Cad Con Fillies (T Clemwood 34) 338; Rhoose Ravers (I Birkenhead 26) 244, Castaways (D Thomas 28) 229; Witchill Widows (S Murray 35) 317, Vixens (T Curnick 36) 302; SV Lights (D Thomas 29) 255, Little Devils (T Evans 27) 248; Witchill Weebies (S Davies 36) 344, Rhoose Starlights (K Bryan 33) 310; Clickies (K Watts 30) 310, After Eights (A Mepham, A Jackson 27) 264; Merry Makers (C Hawker 24) 206, Red Admiral (M Selby 26) 197.

Third division: Rugby Triers (K Brooke 25) 202, Hill Billies (E Anzani 24) 226; Etcetera (C Mackintosh 28) 247, Persuaders (G Hughes 26) 255; Airways Angels (B Gibbs, A Crook 24) 245, Westenders (G Somers 24) 232; Divas (G Gouvier 23) 237, La Belles (S Davies 27) 237; Twilights (A Campbell, C Brown 23) 210, Fallen Angels (C Jones 27) 233; Dolly Mixtures (K Rideout 26) 235, Friends and Neighbours (B Nicholls 22) 172; SV Ladies (K Lacny, C Griffiths 29) 263, Roller Coasters (G Giles 34) 329.

Fourth division: Guardian Angels (S Aston, H Marshall 26) 231, Challengers (A Beales 28) 239; Odd Bods (Jackson 30) 256, Witchill Wanderers (C Morrissey 29) 221; Aristocats (C Chatwell, S Bebb 21) 193, Rebels (J Farr 24) 220; Nite Outers (K Stillman, J Davies, C Mitchem, L White 23) 206, Uptown Girls (K Richardson 25) 226; Hell Raisers (J Rosser 25) 239, Off The Rails (L McCormack 26) 238; Witches (O Weighall 27) 250, Liberals (F Williams, P Schembri 22) 132.

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SIX NATIONS RUGBY

Frustration as Ireland are let off the hook

Stirring fightback, after sloppy start snuffs out Grand Slam hopes

WALES CAN GET BACK ON THE CHAMPIONSHIP TRAIL AGAINST HURTING SCOTS

Prop Rob Evans helped to shore up a Welsh scrum that laid the foundations for a Welsh fightback.

Pictures from the Huw Evans Agency.

Rhys Priestland, above, played a starring role after Wales lost Dan Biggar. Hopefully, he has now silenced so-called Welsh fans who have shamefully jeered him in the past.

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

THERE have been hints trickling out from the Wales camp for some time that a subtle change may be in the air – that criticism of Welsh attacking play and, in particular, its relatively sparse try count, with such rugby gurus as Graham Henry and Nick Mallett now joining in the debate – had finally begun to touch a nerve among the management.

Rightly or wrongly, the perception has grown that while a widely-acclaimed, unyielding defence is the team's acknowledged strong point, the same cannot really be said of the attack, which for whatever reason, and despite a world class backline, rarely fulfils its undoubted true potential.

This was highlighted during the Rugby World Cup at Twickenham last autumn, when despite being encamped with the ball near the opposing try line for long minutes on end, the inability of an admittedly weakened Welsh team to break away and conjure up an attacking movement to stretch a 13-man Australian defence, cost them a place in the semi-final.

Before Wales set off for their opening Six Nations clash in Dublin at the weekend, former South African coach Mallett observed: "*Wales might be able to boast the best backline in the championship, but for me, they appear to be routinely wasting them…Wales would rather build their scores through penalties, instead of trusting their skills and being creative with the ball in their hands*."

Former Wales and All Blacks' head coach Henry agreed: "*The (Welsh) guys try to use their brawn, rather than brains – and are not putting it together as an attacking unit*."

It stung Wales' attack coach, Robert Howley, into admitting: "*We have to be more ruthless and clinical … that's the challenge of international rugby … and we have to score more tries*."

A welcome sign that the message may be getting through, came on Friday evening, when the Wales under-20 team pointed the way for the seniors by outscoring their Irish counterparts by four tries to two in a thrilling 35-24 victory – after being given a licence by their coaches to play 'a fast and attacking style of rugby'.

The question was, would that also be the approach of the near full-strength senior team, hotly favoured against a triple championship-chasing Irish side on Sunday, whose turn it now was to be depleted – lacking several first choice players through injury, and without their retired, inspirational leader Paul O'Connell.

In view of this, most pre-match pundits had made a more settled, seasoned Wales side laden with caps, clear favourites to overcome a first hurdle on the way to a possible championship bid of their own – a tag which once upon a time did not sit easy with men in red more accustomed to being perennial underdogs (the '70s superstar era excepted, of course!)

This may also no longer be the case with Warren Gatland's Wales in 2016, but what is still a factor is the mystifying slowness out of the blocks that has proved costly for so many Welsh teams' hopes in past campaigns – and came perilously near to doing so again on Sunday. For it was the 'underdogs' in green who typically took the battle to Wales from the outset, forcing infringements that saw the impeccable boot of outside half Johnny Sexton punish them with two penalties that took them into a six-point lead barely 10 minutes from the kick-off.

They went on to totally dominate the early exchanges – the Irish pressure capped by a sniping try by scrum half Conor Murray, converted by Sexton, which gave them a commanding 13-0 lead and threatened to take them out of sight before the game was even 20 minutes old.

To make matters worse, outside half maestro Dan Biggar had been injured and hobbled from the field. He was replaced by former Scarlet Rhys Priestland, who, thankfully, had reversed his decision to retire from international rugby after he crossed the Severn to Bath.

He overcame a shaky start to play a pivotal role (literally) in a Welsh fight-back that began up front, with the forwards slowly beginning to exert control at the set-piece, with young loose-head, Rob Evans, fully vindicating head coach Gatland's decision to start him ahead of veteran Gethin Jenkins (who came on as the weighty Welsh replacements bench emptied in the second half).

The reward came three minutes before half time when following intense pack pressure, Dragons' No 8 Taulupe Faletau broke away from a slightly messy scrum five metres out and barged over for a touchdown, easily converted by Priestland, to add to a penalty minutes earlier, which amazingly brought Wales to within just three points of the Irish and a halftime score of 13-10.

Two minutes after the restart, Priestland failed with a snap drop goal attempt, but was successful with a penalty that brought the teams level at 13-13, after Jonathan Davies, who was back from injury to renew a potent centre partnership with the outstanding Jamie Roberts, had sent green defenders scrambling back with a neat chip through to touch.

A lineout then led to the happily born-again Priestland landing a third penalty that took Wales into a 16-13 lead for the first time – with just seven minutes to go on the clock.

Ireland, though, showed they were not finished yet, and back from the wilderness wing Tom James was forced to make a try-saving tackle; while returning full back Liam Williams, who had a surprise late call-up to replace the injured Gareth Anscombe, also played his part as Wales battled grimly to hang on to their slender lead.

However, in the end it was all to no avail as Sexton's accurate boot brought them level at 16-16, when a Welsh forward was penalised for straying offside, and after Priestland's last-gasp drop goal attempt failed, the final whistle blew. In a no-holds-barred contest, in which both sides had defended manfully to the point of exhaustion, both Gatland and his opposite number, fellow Kiwi Joe Schmidt, reluctantly agreed that a draw was probably a fair result.

The day before, a strangely-garbed French team had huffed and puffed to edge out Italy by the slenderest of margins (23-21) in Paris, but should be found out by an Ireland side determined to get their championship defence back on track this weekend.

Meanwhile, in Edinburgh, a methodical, but hardly new-look England side did what was needed to defeat a tame Scottish challenge (15-9), and will expect to rack up points against Italy to continue their mini revival under new Aussie head coach, Eddie Jones, after the World Cup humiliation which cost the job of their former coach.

In contrast, the wounded Scots will be desperate to pick themselves up and show that their World Cup heroics were no flash in the pan when they face Wales in Cardiff on Saturday at the newly-renamed Principality Stadium (kick-off 4.50pm).

However, they will be up against a frustrated Welsh camp kicking themselves for letting the very real prospect of a fourth Grand Slam and a Triple Crown slip through their fingers in the Dublin rain – and the Scots can now expect a torrid backlash, with Wales reasserting their claim for the 2016 championship in the first of three home matches that give them the perfect opportunity to redeem themselves.